

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON TEXAS

Randy Aviles,

Plaintiff,

vs. #4:22-CV-03571

Rigoberto Salvidar, City of Pasadena, TX,

Defendants.

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Nationwide

**COURT REPORTING** 

LEGAL VIDEOGRAPHY

**REMOTE DEPOSITIONS** 

TRIAL PRESENTATION

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VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

CHIEF JOSHUA BRUEGGER

TAKEN ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 9:22 A.M.



937 BROADWAY STREET MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29577

6 8 STIPULATIONS VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. Mark, would 2 It is stipulated among Counsel that this deposition 2 you please swear in the witness. 3 Thereupon, JOSHUA BRUEGGER, being first duly sworn 3 is being taken pursuant to the Federal Rules of 4 Civil Procedure; and that all objections, except as 4 by the Court Reporter, as hereinafter certified, 5 to the form of the question, are reserved until the 5 testified as follows: 6 time of trial. MR. DUBE: We're ready to start? 7 It is also stipulated among Counsel for the COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir. 8 respective parties and the deponent that the 8 EXAMINATION 9 deponent will exercise the right to read and sign BY MR. DUBE: 10 this transcript. 10 Q Good morning, sir. How are you? 11 A Good, thank you. 12 The deposition is taken pursuant to notice 12 Q We met briefly out in the hall. My name 13 and/or agreement, in the above-entitled cause 13 is Dimitri Dube. I'm an attorney and I represent 14 pending in the above-named court and pursuant to 14 Mr. Randy Aviles in this lawsuit. 15 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 15 A Yes, sir. 16 16 Q Okay. And you know the lawsuit we're 17 17 talking -- we were referring to is lawsuit Aviles 18 versus the City of Pasadena and Rigoberto Saldivar. 19 19 A Yes, sir. 20 20 Q And you are familiar with that lawsuit? 21 21 22 22 Q Okay. All right. We are here in Myrtle 23 23 Beach. 24 24 A Yes, sir. 25 25 Q And this is where you work. Correct? 7 1 VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF A Correct. 2 CHIEF JOSHUA BRUEGGER Okay. What do you do? 3 TAKEN ON 3 Assistant city manager. Okay. How long have you been in that 4 FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 5 9:22 A.M. 5 role? 6 6 October 30th of 2023. VIDEO TECHNICIAN: We're on the record in 7 Okay. And -- bef--- October 30th of 2023? 8 the video deposition of Chief Joshua Bruegger in the Yes, sir. 9 matter of Aviles versus Saldivar. Today's date is Okay. So -- so very recently? 10 January 5th, 2024. We're located at Myrtle Beach 10 A Yes, sir. 11 City Hall in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The 11 Q When did you leave employment with the 12 court reporter is Mark Hagood. My name is Arthur 12 City of Pasadena? 13 Daugomah with Naegeli Deposition and Trial. The 13 A October 6th of 2023. 14 time is now 9:22. Will counsel please identify Q And before we go any further, I just want 15 themselves for the record? 15 to get some preliminaries out of the way. Is there MR. DUBE: Dimitri Dube on behalf of 16 16 any reason why you would not be able to give 17 plaintiff Randy Aviles. 17 truthful testimony today? 18 MR. GILES: Norman Giles. I represent the 18 A No. 19 City of Pasadena. 19 Q Okay. Are you on any medications or 20 MR. SELBE: Steve Selbe for off-- Officer anything else that would prevent you from -- from 21 Saldivar. 21 remembering or giving truthful testimony? 22 MR. DUBE: And Larry Taylor from my 22 A No. 23 office, Cochran Firm, will also be joining us at 23 And you are ready to proceed today? O 24 some point. I think when he comes or not, he's 24 Α 25 going to make his appearance as well. 25 Okay. How did you prepare for this

10 12 1 deposition? Okay. And is that in the Houston area --A I reviewed the reports, previous Houston, Texas. Yes. 2 2 3 testimony. 3 Q When did you graduate? Q Which reports did you review? 4 December of 1995. A The internal affairs report and the 5 Q And what did you do after --6 documents that go with that for this particular Correction, '94. 7 7 incident. Ninety-four? O 8 Q Okay. Is that -- by internal affairs Α Yes. 9 report, are you referring to the report from Q What did you do after you graduated from 10 Sergeant Hamilton to you at the conclusion of -- of 10 high school? 11 the investigation of the Schenk case? A Started college in January of 1995 at Sam 12 Houston State. 12 A I -- I reviewed that as well, but the one 13 that detective Mauricio Reyes drafted or authored 13 Q What was your major? 14 14 for this -- the Aviles shooting. Criminal justice. Q Okay. Okay. So you've reviewed the one 15 They have a good program --15 Q 16 for the Schenk shooting and the one for the Aviles 16 They do. 17 shooting? 17 Q -- there, right? 18 A Yes. 18 Α A very good program. 19 Okay. Anything else that you reviewed? 19 Did you complete it? Q Q 20 20 A I did. A No. 21 21 Q Okay. Did you review any videos? Q Okay. So when did you graduate from 22 A No. 22 college? 23 23 A My undergraduate, I graduated in December Q Okay. Did you speak to anybody? 24 24 of '97. A An attorney. 25 25 Q Oh, so you finished a little early? Q Anybody besides an attorney? 11 13 A No. Α Yes. 1 Okay. Tell us a little bit about how --Okay. How so? you know, where you grew up. Took a bunch of classes. A Where I grew up? And so --5 Q Uh-huh. 5 Year 'round. 6 A Pretty much the Houston area. I lived 6 Okay. So you took summer classes? O 7 overseas for a couple of years as a teenager, but 7 other than that, it's been the Houston area. 8 Q Okay. What did you do immediately after 9 Q Where overseas? college? 10 A Indonesia. 10 A Started with the Pasadena Police 11 Q Okay. How long were you there? 11 Department March 2nd of 1998. 12 A Two years. 12 So you graduated in '97? 13 Q Okay. Why did you --13 I graduated in December of '97. A My dad -- work. My dad's work. 14 14 15 Q Okay. What did he do? 15 A Started with the Pasadena Police 16 A He worked for ExxonMobil. 16 Department in March of nin--- 1998. 17 Q How old were you when you were in -- in 17 Q Did you do anything between? 18 Indonesia? 18 A A little bit of substitute teaching. A Seventh/eighth grade, so whatever that 19 Okay. What did you substitute teach? 19 20 20 makes you; 12, 13, somewhere in there. Conroe Independent School District. 21 Q And did you come back here for high 21 Q Is that where you lived? 22 22 school? A I loved in the Woodlands area, so yes. 23 A I did. 23 Q And were you employed with the Pasadena 24 Q Where did you go to high school? 24 Police Department from 1998 until you left this past 25 25 October? A McCullough High School in the Woodlands.

- 1 A Correct.
- 2 Q All right. So I just want to go through
- 3 the various roles you served --
- 4 A Okay.
- 5 Q -- in the Pasadena Police Department.
- 6 What was your first role there?
- 7 A I was a cadet in the police academy.
- 8 Q Uh-huh. How long were you there?
- 9 A I graduated at the end of August of '98.
- 10 Q Okay.
- 11 A So approximately six months.
- 12 Q That's A six-month program. Okay. Did you
- 13 graduate with any special distinction or honors?
- 14 A I graduated at the top of the class
- 15 academically.
- 16 Q Congrats.
- 17 A Thanks.
- 18 Q And what was your next role?
- 19 A I was a police officer assigned to night
- 20 shift.
- 21 Q Okay. Actually, let's go back a little
- 22 bit. While you were -- while you were at the police
- 23 academy, did you have occasion to meet Officer
- 24 Rigoberto Saldivar?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 first contact with the drivers? Like what -- what -
- 2 what was your actual role in the task force?
- 3 A Both. One would be going out and making
- 4 traffic stops, trying to find intoxicated drivers.
- 5 And then also, if another officer stopped somebody
- 6 that they believed to be intoxicated, they would
- 7 call one of the D.W.I. task force officers over and
- 8 then we would go conduct the investigation at that
- 9 point and take it over.
- 10 Q Okay. What did conducting the
- 11 investigation entail?
- 12 A Administering field sobriety tests,
- 13 interviewing the subject and looking the person over
- 14 and, you know, seeing if you observe any signs of
- 15 intoxication.
- 16 Q Anything else?
- 17 A That's it.
- 18 Q And making the arrest if -- if it was
- 19 warranted?
- 20 A Making the arrest if it was warranted and
- 21 then the intoxilyzer.
- 22 Q Okay. Did you do any -- like what -- what
- 23 would a typical investigation in a -- a D.W.I. case
- 24 look like?

15

25 A Normally, it was interview the driver,

1 Q Tell us about that.

- 2 A He was in the police academy with me.
- 3 Q Okay. So for the entire time period?
- 4 A Yes, sir.
- 5 Q Did you guys have a friendship or
- 6 relationship during that time?
- 7 A Just coworkers. Didn't hang out outside
- 8 of work or anything.
- 9 Q Do you have an idea where he finished in
- 10 the class?
- 11 A I have no idea.
- 12 Q Okay. So now, I'm sorry, let's go back to
- 13 who you are, roles. So the night shift patrol.
- 14 Okay. So a regular police officer. Okay. How long
- 15 were you in that role?
- 16 A Until April of 2000.
- 17 Q Okay. And what -- what role did you move
- 18 to?
- 19 A D.W.I. task force.
- 20 Q And what did that role entail?
- 21 A Impaired driving.
- 22 Q Uh-huh.
- 23 A Identifying, apprehending impaired
- 24 drivers.
- 25 Q So were you -- were you an officer making

- 1 administer field sobriety tests, make determination
  - 2 whether they were intoxicated. If they were, make
  - 3 the arrest, take them to jail and then offer them a
  - 4 breath test.
  - 5 Q Did you have any other role as a case --
  - 6 as the case would proceed?
  - 7 A Provide courtroom testimony often times.
    - Q So you have testified in court before?
  - 9 A A bunch, yes.
  - 10 Q Okay. Have you ever had your deposition
  - 11 taken before?
  - 12 A Yes.
  - 13 Q How many times?
  - 14 A Probably five or six.
  - 15 Q Okay. What kind of cases were those in?
  - 16 A I know at least two were related to
  - 17 crashes.
  - 18 Q Uh-huh.
  - 19 A And then I know at least three out of
  - 20 lawsuits since I've been the chief -- or was the
  - 21 chief.
  - 22 Q Were you personally named in those suits?
  - 23 A One of them, I was.
  - 24 Q Uh-huh. Do you recall the circumstances
  - 25 of that case, or the all--- the allegations in those



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Case 4:22-cv-03571 Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 6 of 128 NDT Assgn # 71056 18 20 1 lawsuit were? 1 cases? 2 A Each of the cases or the case where I was A They were excessive force. I know that. 3 personally named? Q Okay. So but give me a little -- can you Q Sorry. Do you recall the allegations in 4 give me a little more factual detail, like what was 5 the case that you were personally named? 5 the circumstance of the force that was used? A Yes. It -- it was an allegation of A I know he was struck like with a fist, 7 excessive force in an arrest and it was -- I either 7 hit. I don't remember if there was any other -- I -8 failed to train or failed to supervise. One -- I --8 - I don't remember that he was alleged to be kicked 9 one of -- one of those or both of those. I don't or anything like that. I don't recall that, but --10 remember specifically. 10 Q Uh-huh. 11 Q Uh-huh. Was it alleged that you had used 11 A All I recall is strikes. 12 excessive force? 12 Q What area in Pasadena did -- did the for--13 - was the force used? 13 A No. 14 A Where at? Q So you were just the chief and it was --14 15 15 Q Yes. A I was -- yes. 16 Q Okay. And what was the nature of the 16 A It was at a Denny's. Around the 4100 17 force that was used in that case? 17 block of Spencer Highway. 18 A Physical force. 18 Q How did they allege that you failed to 19 Q Okay. Was it a shooting? supervise the officers in question? 19 20 20 A I honestly don't know. A No. 21 21 Q Okay. Do you recall the outcome of the Q Okay. 22 case? 22 A I'm not sure. 23 A Personally, I was released from the 23 Q Okay. You -- you don't recall reading the 24 complaint or petition? 24 lawsuit. 25 25 A I did, but I don't remember -- I -- I Q Uh-huh. 19 21 A And then the case settled. 1 don't remember exactly what -- I -- I don't know. 1 Q Okay. Okay. All right. So we're still 2 Do you recall for how much? 3 going through your background now. So now you're in 3 A I do not. Q Do you recall the name of the officer who 4 D.W. task for--- D.W.I. task force. 5 was named in the lawsuit? A Correct. 6 A There was a bunch. 6 Q How long were you there for? 7 Q Uh-huh. A May or June of twenty--- 2006, I believe. Q So remind me, when -- you started back 8 A I know one of them was Officer Brinker. 9 Q Uh-huh. 9 there in 2000? A I -- I don't remember the other ones. 10 A April of 2000. 10 11 Q Okay. What year was this? 11 Q Okay. 12 A The lawsuit or when it happened? 12 A Let me correct that. It was the beginning 13 Ω Both. 13 of the -- I want to say January of 2006, I left I don't know. I believe it settled last 14 there and went to day shift patrol. I had promoted 14 Α 15 in there. 15 year. Q Okay. 16 O Okay. 16 17 A I think in early '23 or late '22. 17 A And so I went to day shift patrol in 18 Q Okay. 18 January of 2006. A I believe. And I'm just going to -- I 19 Q Okay. Tell us about the promotion. don't know exactly when it happened. My guess is a 20 A In October of 2004, I was promoted to 21 couple of years earlier just because of I know how 21 sergeant and I retained the D.W .--- I was supervisor

24

22 then in the D.W.I. task force until the end of

Q Okay. So just to recap, you -- so you

25 were D.W.I. task force as a regular officer from

23 December of 2005.

22 it plays out --

Q Uh-huh.

A But I couldn't tell you a...

Q Do you recall what the allegations in the

23

24

1 about I guess April 2000 to when you were promoted.

- 2 Is that correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. And then when you got promoted, you
- 5 became the -- the -- I guess the lead?
  - A I was the sergeant in the D.W.I. task
- 7 force from October of 2004 until the end of 2005.
- 8 Q Gotcha. Okay. What is the process to get
- 9 promoted?
- 10 A It's varied in the organization, but
- 11 because it's a 143 local government code agency in
- 12 Texas that governs the promotional process, and so I
- 13 guess you could go by default. If there's not an
- 14 alternative promotional process, it's a test, a
- 15 competitive test.
- 16 Q Uh-huh.
- 17 A And then the -- the candidates are ranked
- 18 based on test score and seniority points, and that
- 19 creates the eligibility list and then you're
- 20 promoted off that as openings come open.
- 21 At one point, we also later on had an
- 22 alternative promotional process which involved a
- 23 test and then assessment center as well and then
- 24 combine the two of those together and that created
- 25 an eligibility list.

- 1 of discipline?
  - A No. Discipline -- no. Discipline came
- 3 from above.
- 4 Q So you moved to day shift patrol?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. And that was in '06. Correct?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q Okay. Tell us about your responsibilities
- 9 there.
- 10 A First line supervisor over squad and day
- 11 shift patrol officers. And it was a -- a similar
- 12 role. It was just more broad because the officers
- 13 assigned -- or duties weren't as narrowly focused,
- 14 and so they would respond to calls for service,
- 15 traffic, crime, disturbances, things like that. And
- 16 so my responsibility was still, you know, approving
- 17 reports, day-to-day oversight, payroll, you --
- 18 working through, you know, some of the minor
- 19 complaints, but really just day-to-day supervision
- 20 of -- of the officers under my -- in my squad.
- 21 Q How many officers were -- were you
- 22 responsible for?
- 23 A It depends, but anywhere from usually six
- 24 to ten.

23

25 Q And you were the first -- I guess first

- 1 Q Okay.
- 2 A So there's been two different processes in
- 3 the organization.
- 4 Q Which process was in play when you were
- 5 promoted?
- 6 A When I was promoted --
- 7 Mr. Giles: Object to form.
- 8 By Mr. Dube:
- 9 Q To sergeant.
- 10 A When I was promoted to sergeant, it was a
- 11 test only.
- 12 Q Test only?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q How did your responsibilities change when
- 15 you went from a member of the task force to a
- 16 sergeant in charge of the task force?
- 17 A At that point, I was a first line
- 18 supervisor.
- 19 Q Uh-huh.
- 20 A And so day-to-day oversight of the
- 21 officers that were assigned to that unit,
- 22 scheduling, approving reports, payroll, respond to -
- 23 you know, when officers would call or citizens
- 24 would call, would respond.
- 25 Q Did you have any responsibilities in terms

- 1 line of supervisors is the word -- is the word you
  - 2 used before?
  - 3 A The first line supervisor, yes.
  - 4 Q Okay. So give me a sense of the hierarchy
  - 5 in -- in the chain of supervision at Pasadena.
  - 6 A So again, it's varied.
  - 7 Q Okay.
  - A At one time, we had patrol officers,
  - 9 sergeants, lieutenants, captains, assistant chiefs
  - 10 and the chief.
  - 11 Q Uh-huh.
  - 12 A I don't know. Maybe 15-ish years ago,
  - 13 they did away with the captain position. And so for
  - 14 that time period, it's been officers, sergeant,
  - 15 lieutenant, assistant chief, chief.
  - 16 Q So at the time of this -- of this 2008 --
  - 17 I mean, 2018 through twen--- 2021, the process that
  - 18 was in place was officer, sergeant, lieutenants,
  - 19 assistant chiefs and chief?
  - 20 A Correct.
  - 21 Q Okay. So what were the roles of the
  - 22 lieutenants?
  - 23 A Lieutenants would have a squad of
  - 24 sergeants and they would oversee the sergeants, make
  - 25 sure the sergeants, if you will, were doing their

24

- 1 job or their assignment.
- 2 Q How many sergeants were there in the
- 3 department, you know, throughout the years?
- A It's -- it's either been 39 or 40.
- 5 Q Okay.
- 6 A It's -- I would say gone back and forth,
- 7 but it's been one of those two numbers throughout my
- 8 career.
- 9 Q Why those two numbers?
- 10 A At one point when there was a downturn in
- 11 the economy, they cut some positions. And then as
- 12 the economy returned, they added the position back.
- 13 Q And how many lieutenants?
- 14 A There were nine until July of last year.
- 15 Now there are ten.
- 16 Q Okay. How about assistant chiefs?
- 17 A It's -- it's fluctuated between two and
- 18 three throughout my almost 26 years there.
- 19 Q Uh-huh.
- 20 A Most of the time, it's been three, but
- 21 there's been times where it's been two.
- 22 Q Okay. And one chief?
- 23 A And one chief.
- 24 Q I guess we discussed the role of the
- 25 lieutenants. What is the -- what were the role --

- 1 part, investigations, you have a sergeant that
- 2 oversees a squad of investigators. And usually, they
- 3 have a specific area, a specialty area, if you will.
- 4 We have person violence crimes, we have burglary and
- 5 theft; we have auto theft. And so there's a
- 6 sergeant for each of those investigative divisions.
- 7 Q Uh-huh.
- A Narcotics has a sergeant. The training
- 9 academy has a sergeant. So really, all of the areas
- 10 have at least a sergeant.
- 11 Q Uh-huh.
- 12 A And then depending on the span and control
- 13 and how many, you know, officers are there will kind
- 14 of drive the number of sergeants that will be in
- 15 that -- that area.
- 16 Q How about the D.W.I. task force? What
- 17 other task forces have been present while you were
- 18 with -- with the police department?
- 19 A I guess what do you define as a task
- 20 force?
- 21 Q What do you -- you know, because it -- it
- 22 has a specific name, a D.W.I. -- are there any other
- 23 task forces or anything that operates similar to the
- 24 D.W.I. task force at Pasadena?
- 25 A You have to Gulf Coast violent offenders

1 what was the role and responsibilities of the

- 2 assistant chief?
- 3 A So the assistant chief then oversee the
- 4 lieutenants. They -- and they also regularly meet
- 5 with the chief and -- at -- at -- once you are in
- 6 the assistant chief role, it's more setting policy,
- 7 setting direction, kind of the vision, the goals for
- 8 the organization. So it's -- it's a little bit
- 9 broader scope beyond just the day-to-day
- 10 supervision. It's also, you know, helping move the
- 11 -- the organization in the direction we're trying to
- 12 go.
- 13 Q And let's go back a little bit with
- 14 respect to the sergeants. How are they organized in
- 15 terms of the squads? What are the various squads
- 16 that are present at the Pasadena Police Department?
- 17 A So patrol has -- again, it's varied
- 18 between four, five or six sergeants, you know,
- 19 throughout my career. And it just depends. Really,
- 20 manpower drives that to a large extent. And so
- 21 you'll have, you know, four, five or six sergeants,
- 22 and then all of the officers on the shift are
- 23 divided up and assigned to a sergeant. And so that's
- 24 how you end up with the squads.
- 25 And then like investigations, for the most

1 task force.

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- . Q Okay.
- B A Which has a sergeant. And when I left at
- 4 least in October, there were -- there were two
- 5 officers assigned there. And their job was to go
- 6 out and apprehend violent -- you know, persons that
- 7 are wanted for violent offenses.
- 3 Q Uh-huh.
- 9 A Those are the only real what I would call
- 10 a task force.
- 11 Q Okay. Are there any shared programs
- 12 between like the local law enforcement and federal
- 13 law enforcement?
- 14 A Yes
- 15 Q Okay. Tell me about those.
- 16 A Gulf Coast violent offenders task force
- 17 should be one of those.
- 18 Q Okay.
- 19 A Works with the U.S. Marshals Service.
- 20 Narcotics has some of our members that are assigned
- 21 to the DEA.
- 22 Q Uh-huh.
- 23 A And then you als--- we also have --
- 24 there's an officer that's assigned to ATF. And I
- 25 believe those are the only ones.



2

1 Q Uh-huh.

- 2 A At least in recent history.
- 3 Q Uh-huh. And approximately how many
- 4 patrolmen, officers are employed by the City of
- 5 Pasadena, typically?
- A So it's varied.
- 7 Q Uh-huh.
- 8 A Total sworn personnel from the chief all
- 9 the way, you know, to the bottom of the
- 10 organization, there have been anywhere from about
- 11 225 to 290.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 A And it fluctuates, obviously. You know,
- 14 you will have, you know, a group leave and then hire
- 15 -- you know, hire more to replace them. And so it
- 16 fluctuates, but --
- 17 Q Uh-huh.
- 18 A -- somewhere in there.
- 19 MR. DUBE: Let's go off the record a
- 20 second. I -- I need to use the restroom.
- 21 THE DEPONENT: Okay.
- 22 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. The time is
- 23 now 9:47.
- 24 (Whereupon, a break was taken from the
- 25 proceedings.)

- 1 Q Uh-huh.
  - A Which include traffic, K-9. So I always
- 3 say anybody that wears a uniform on a daily basis is
- 4 assigned to operations or patrol.
- 5 Q Uh-huh.
- 6 A And then the other major area of the
- 7 organization is investigations.
- 8 Q Uh-huh.
  - A And so you have the -- the various
- 10 investigative divisions from juveniles to juvenile
- 11 sex crimes, auto crimes, burglary and theft,
- 12 financial crimes, violent crimes. Narcotics. I
- 13 think that's most of them.
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 A And then you have the other third area is
- 16 admin and support, which is your crime scene unit,
- 17 the training academy, community services.
- 18 Q What's a percentage split between
- 19 operations, investigations and admin support?
- 20 A The last that I know was around 50 percent
- 21 was assigned to operations.
- 22 Q Uh-huh.
- 23 A Probably 40-ish percent are assigned --
- 24 are -- 35, 40 percent assigned to investigations and
- 25 then the remaining percentage assigned to admin and

VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 9:49.

- 2 We're back on the record.
- 3 By Mr. Dube:
- 4 Q Before we took our break, you -- you were
- 5 telling us that approximately 200 to 290 patrolmen
- 6 -
- 7 A The sworn personnel.
- 8 Q Sworn personnel.
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 Q I believe that's -- includes chiefs --
- 11 A That's all the way down.
- 12 Q -- and sergeants --
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Okay. Gotcha. Okay.
- 15 A So you do the math and figure out how many
- 16 officer are --
- 17 Q Understood. How many lieutenants are
- 18 there? You said nine. Right?
- 19 A Nine until this past July, there's ten.
- 20 Q How are the patrolmen organized? What do -
- 21 are they in particular divisions or --
- 22 A Yes. You have patrol obviously is the
- 23 largest.
- 24 Q Uh-huh.
- 25 A Patrolling operations is the largest area.

1 support.

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- Q Okay. We're still tracking down your
- 3 career path. So daytime supervisor?
- 4 A Correct
- 5 Q Okay. Or day -- or day shift supervisor?
- 6 A Day shi--- correct.
- 7 Q How long were you in that role?
- B A Until either May or June of 2006.
- 9 Q And where were you shifted then?
- 10 A I was then shifted to investigations, but
- 11 specifically, property crimes or also known as
- 12 burglary and theft.
- 13 Q What was your role there?
- 14 A To oversee the investigators in burglary
- 15 and theft and, you know, supervise investigations.
- 16 I would work some cases as well.
- 17 Q Uh-huh.
- 18 A But really, my -- my primary role is the
- 19 day-to-day supervision of -- of the investigators
- 20 assigned there, overseeing investigations, approving
- 21 reports, you know, payroll, make sure everybody's
- 22 complying with, you know, rules, policies, things
- 23 like that.
- 24 Q Were you still a sergeant at that time?
- 25 A I was a sergeant, yes.



32

When did you receive your next promotion? 1

2 Next promotion?

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A Was October of 2012.

5 Q Uh-huh. What is that process?

6 A The promotional process?

7 Q Uh-huh.

9

8 A That was a test in an assessment center.

Q What's an assessment center?

A So a -- a verbal command and high -- do 10

11 various scenarios. There's also a writing exercise

12 to it, a -- a -- a presentation part of it, and

13 you're assessed on your performance on that and

14 given a score. And then I believe the test was 60

15 percent and then the assessment center was 40

16 percent. Combine those two together and that's how

17 you grade the eligibility list.

18 Q And who -- who are the people making the

19 assessment?

20 A I don't know. They -- outside -- out---

21 it was an outside firm that would bring typically

22 supervisors in from other organizations of

23 comparable size from outside the Houston area --

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A -- to come in and do the assessment. A I believe I worked one homicide while I

2 was there.

Q Okay. Tell us about that, please.

A It was a case where -- a very different

5 case. A lady's mother was -- she was on hospice,

6 but she was immobile and on a ventilator; basically,

7 a lot of machines to keep her alive. And at some

point, she took her mother off the ventilator and

her mother died.

10 Q Uh-huh. I guess without authorization?

11

12 Q Okay. So you have person crime and you

13 have burglary and theft property crimes?

14 A Correct.

15 Q You're still a sergeant?

16 Α

17 Okay. And what was your next role? Q

In November of 2009, I was transferred to

19 internal affairs.

20 How long were you in that role?

21 Until October of 2012.

22 Q That's when you were promoted to

23 lieutenant?

35

24 A Correct.

25 Q Okay. What was your role at -- as a

Q Understood. Okay. You -- oh, all right,

2 let's jump back again.

3 A Okay.

Q So you were the -- a sergeant for

5 investigations. How long were you in that role?

A So I had burglary and theft from when I

7 got there, which was May or June of 2006, until I 8 believe it was like August or September of 2006 when

9 I also was given persons crime. So I had two

10 different squads of investigators.

11 Q Okav.

12 Α And I had that role until November of

13 2009.

Q Okay. What's persons crime?

15 A Person crime is also known as violent

16 crime. They investigate any crimes against persons

17 from -- all the way from homicides, harassing

18 communi--- harassing communications, robberies,

19 assaults, sexual assaults, shootings, stabbings,

20 things of that nature.

21 Q You stated you also worked some cases

22 while you were in that position?

23 A Yes.

Q Okay. Did you work some homicides while 24

25 you were in that position?

1 sergeant in internal affairs?

A Taking complaints, conducting

3 investigations.

Q Anything else?

A Would review use of force forms when they

were committed and submitted. That -- that's the

primary function is inves--- you know, conducting

investigations of complaints and review -- and doing

internal review of force incidents in the

10 department.

11 Q So let's go back a little bit. How is the

12 internal affairs division organized?

13 A What -- so what do you mean?

14 Q Because in -- in the other divisions, you

15 had, you know, I guess officers or patrolmen that

16 you supervise. Right?

17 A Right.

18 Q And then they did -- and you were in

19 charge of their day-to-day activities and et cetera,

20 et cetera. Then you go to sergeant and there would

21 be a lieutenant. Right? So give me the same sce---

22 scenario how the general affairs division was

23 organized.

24 A So it depended. At times, there were a

25 lieutenant and a sergeant. There were two



37

1 sergeants. There was a sergeant and an officer.

2 While there still is the rank structure --

- 3 Q Uh-huh.
- 4 A -- in internal affairs, you're both
- 5 investigators, both -- so while there may be a rank
- 6 difference, for a lot -- for really all practical
- 7 purposes, you're pretty much two investigators
- 8 working. And so almost like part -- you know, you
- 9 would be partners as opposed to, you know,
- 10 supervisor subordinate even though there may be rank
- 11 difference.
- 12 Q Is that -- it was less formal than it
- 13 would be in -- in other departments?
- 14 A The -- the rank, yes. The rank
- 15 structure, yes.
- 16 Q All right.
- 17 A And -- and then you would report directly
- 18 to the chief's office, whether it was directly to
- 19 the chief or an assistant chief. But it -- that's...
- 20 Q Understood. And who is your I guess
- 21 lieutenant or -- and partner while you were there?
- 22 A I know Dan Bittner was there for a while.
- 23 Chris McGregor. Those are the two I remember. It's
- 24 not to say there weren't others, but those are the
- 25 two that stand out to me.

- 1 Q All right. Tell us about the first one.
- 2 A The first one was an off-duty officer. Do
- 3 you -- my description of it, it was a road rage. He
- 4 had been drinking. Ends up following him into an
- 5 apartment complex. Words were exchanged between the

40

41

- 6 off-duty officer and the driver of the other
- 7 vehicle. Driver of the other vehicle begins to
- 8 drive. The officer shoots at the back of the
- 9 vehicle.
- 10 Q Do you remember the officer's name?
- 11 A Kazz. K-A-Z-Z.
- 12 Q K-A?
- 13 A Z-Z.
- 14 Q First name?
- 15 A I don't know.
- 16 Q No worries. Okay. What was the outcome
- 17 of -- of the investigation?
- 18 A He was found to have violated policy. I
- 19 don't remember if he voluntarily separated his
- 20 employment or was terminated. And he ultimately was
- 21 charged with an offense. I don't remember if it was
- 22 aggravated assault or something else, but he was --
- 23 he was charged with a crime.
- 24 Q So he was formally prosecuted?
- 25 A Yes.

Q And you were in internal affairs for

- 2 approximately three years?
- 3 A Yes.
- Q Okay. Can you give us a sense of what --
- 5 well, actually, let's ask this this way. Were there
- 6 any officer involved shootings during those three
- 7 years you were a member at internal affairs?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. How many were there?
- 10 A I couldn't give you a number. I would say
- 11 probably ten-ish, but that's a approximation.
- 12 Q Do you recall during your three years
- 13 there if any of these officer-involved shootings you
- 14 determined that the shootings were unjustified?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Okay. How many?
- 17 A I know of one for sure. There --
- 18 Q Why -- why does that one stick out?
- 19 A Because it was cold that night and I
- 20 remember being out there. That's why. I mean, the
- 21 circumstances. There was another one that I -- I
- 22 remember the facts very specifically. I just don't
- 23 know -- I -- I was assigned to internal affairs
- 24 because now I -- yeah, so at least two that I know
- 25 of that -- yes.

- 1 Q Okay. Do you recall the outcome?
- 2 A I'm fairly certain he was found not
- 3 guilty.
- 4 Q But he was terminated?
- A Yes. Well, he was terminated -- I don't
- 6 know if he was terminated or if he --
- 7 Q Well --
- 8 A -- quit in lieu of being terminated. I --
- 9 I don't know.
- 10 Q So he -- so he left his employment as a
- 11 Pasadena police officer?
- 12 A Correct.
- 13 Q Okay. And do you recall what his rank
- 14 was?
- 15 A He was an officer.
- 16 Q He was an officer? Okay. Do you recall
- 17 what year this was?
- 18 A Somewhere between 2009 and 2012. No.
- 19 Q I knew you were going to say that. Okay.
- 20 2009, 2012. Gotcha. Okay. Anything else about
- 21 that incident that stick out -- that sticks out in
- 22 your mind?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q What was your role in the investigation?
- 25 A I was a supervisor.



1 Q Uh-huh. Did you interview witnesses? Did 2 you interview --

3 A No, I was just out there overseeing the

4 investigation, but I did not conduct the

5 investigation.

S Q Okay. Do you know who -- do you know

7 which -- so -- so somebody in the investigations

8 unit would have conducted the investigation?

A Yes.

9

10 Q Okay. Do you recall who it was?

11 A I do not.

12 Q What was the second incident?

13 A The second incident was a traffic stop

14 involving Officer Martin.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A Some point, the driver drove away and

17 Officer Martin fired at him and struck him. And the

18 -- it was a pursuit after that, probably about ten

19 minutes, and then he was apprehended.

20 Q Do you recall what year that was?

21 A No

22 Q What was your role in that investigation?

23 A I was assigned to internal affairs, so I -

24 - I did not work it. The other person assigned to

25 internal affairs worked it, or -- or was the lead

1 Q Policy?

2 A Policy. Yes.

B Q Gotcha. But that's what I'm asking, I

4 guess. Is there -- was there a process -- well, let

5 me start over. Was there a process at the Pasadena

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6 Police Department for internal affairs to i--- to

7 identify those type of recommendations for the chief

8 and the assistant chief?

A As far as a formal process, no. But I

10 mean, all -- all internal affairs reports go -- you

11 know, go to the chief's office for a review. So

12 they are gonna -- they are gonna see them. And --

13 and I'll -- I'll -- I mean, as far as this -- I

14 mean, we have a policy, you know, you can't shoot at

15 somebody that's not a threat. So this is not a --

16 that's -- as far as a training, I mean, it is

17 trained -- officers are trained, you know, you

18 cannot shoot somebody that's not a -- a threat and,

19 you know, meets the -- the elements of, you know,

20 chapter nine of the penal code. But yes.

21 Q So -- so I guess this is somebody's

22 testimony, the officer should know that they should

23 not shoot at a car that's moving away from them and

24 not a threat to them, based on training?

25 A And -- and I'm going to say more not a --

1 investigator. I oversaw the investigation. I'm

2 sure I helped him on some things.

3 Q That's two shootings -- unjustified

4 shootings that both involve allegation of a driver

5 driving away and an officer shooting at them?

6 A Right.

7 Q In circumstances like that, would internal

8 affairs have any responsibility or any role in

9 suggesting additional training for the officers when

10 you -- when you come across things that are hap---

11 that are happening on a repeated basis?

12 A In internal affairs, not necessarily, no.

13 Q You would agree with me, internal affairs,

14 that a first level or layer that could -- that could

15 see those type of patterns developing. Correct?

16 A Correct.

17 MR. GILES: Object to form.

18 MR. SELBE: Same objection.

19 THE DEPONENT: And they may take a

20 recommendation to you the chief, potentially, and

21 say, hey, chief, here's something we're seeing.

22 Right? But at the end of the day, it's usually the

23 chief or an assistant chief that's going to -- going

24 to dictate --

25 BY MR. DUBE:

1 MR. GILES: Object to form.

THE DEPONENT: I'm going to say not a

3 threat as opposed to driving away because you could

4 drive away and still be a threat. So I mean, it's

5 going to depend on the circumstances. But does the

6 department have a policy prohibiting, you know, the

7 use of unjustified force? Absolutely. State law

8 prohibits the use of unjustified force. And so

9 those exist. And there's also the very real, you

10 know, possibility of being indicted for criminal

11 offense if you use, you know, force. And so there

12 are -- the -- the organization has taken steps to

13 ensure that -- you know, to the best of our ability

14 --

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15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A -- that officers do not use unjustified

17 force.

18 Q But despite the policy, you will agree

19 with me that officers do sometimes use un---

20 unjustified force?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And was there any procedures in place at

23 the police department to identify those areas where

24 despite their training, officers were still using

25 force -- unjustified force, any patterns along those

- 1 lines?
- 2 A I mean, I guess the process would be when
- 3 the chief's office sees, you know, these internal
- 4 affairs reports coming up, they are going to see
- 5 them and can identify. But I -- I'm not sure what
- 6 else you're looking for or asking because, I mean,
- 7 that -- that's I guess the best way I can answer the
- 8 question.
- Q Uh-huh. I'm not looking for anything.
- 10 I'm just asking what -- well, what -- what the
- 11 policies were or what the procedures were, just
- 12 informational.
- 13 A Yeah.
- Q Okay. So nothing formal, but you would 14
- 15 have expected that the chief's office would --
- 16 would, you know, take into account what they are
- 17 seeing and the chief's office would make those --
- those pollicy determinations?
- 19 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 20 THE DEPONENT: Correct.
- 21 BY MR. DUBE:
- 22 Q But nothing formal originating out of
- 23 internal affairs?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Okay. All right. What is your day-to-day

- 1 whole bunch of people in the organization and I --
- 2 you know, I didn't keep up with him. So I don't --
- 3 I don't remember. And it's not to say we didn't,
- 4 but I don't remember us working together or him
- 5 working for me.
  - Q Uh-huh.
- A Directly for me. I mean, obviously, as --
- 8 as a chief, ever--- you know, they all -- but you
- 9 know, as far as being a sergeant and supervising
- 10 him, I -- I don't remember that ever happening.
- 11 Even as a lieutenant, I don't recall -- I was on
- 12 nights for nine months or so as a lieutenant and he
- 13 might have been assigned to nights, but I -- I mean,
- 14 there's 35, 40 people assigned to nights, so I don't
- -- I don't know.
- 16 Q Nothing you recall directly. Right?
- 17 A Correct.
- Q Okay. How about when you were in internal
- 19 affairs? Did you come across any investigations
- 20 that -- where he was involved?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Okay. Tell us about that.
- 23 A He was involved in a shooting in two-
- 24 thousand-and--- I don't remember -- nine or twelve,
- 25 somewhere in there, I think.

- 1 responsibility at internal affairs?
- A It's dependent on the day. Some days was,
- 3 you know, taking complaints. Other days, you know,
- 4 investigations. It -- it just would depend on the
- 5 day. And I always -- you know, internal affairs is
- 6 very up and down. Sometimes there's not a lot going
- 7 on, and other times, it's, you know, busy. And so
- 8 it just -- it just depends.
- Q Okay. What was your next role after
- 10 internal affairs?
- 11 A When I was promoted to lieutenant in
- 12 October of 2012, I was assigned to night shift --
- 13 night shift patrol as a night shift commander.
- Q Let me ask this question. So we're
- 15 October of 2012. Correct? And you and Officer
- 16 Saldivar went to the academy together. Correct?
- 17 A Correct.
- 18 Q Do you have any interaction with him from
- 19 when you began with the police department and up
- 20 until this role?
- 21 A If we were assigned to the same areas, it
- 22 was for a very short time because I don't really
- 23 remember -- he and I weren't friends, and so -- I
- 24 mean, we were academy mates, but not friends. And
- 25 so not that I didn't keep up with him, but there's a

- Q Okay.
  - Maybe '12.
  - Q Okay. Can you give us -- what were the
  - circumstances of that shooting?
  - A Yes. He was dispatched out to a subject
  - 6 with a gun -- actually, two guns.
    - Q Uh-huh.
  - Officer Saldivar -- they had been taken in
  - 9 a theft from Walmart.
  - 10 Q Uh-huh.
  - 11 A Officer Saldivar located the individual,
  - 12 said he had a gun in his hand -- at least one gun in
  - his hand, I -- I recall, and Officer Saldivar
  - 14 perceived him to be a threat because of the gun in
  - 15 his hand; didn't obey commands. And Officer
  - 16 Saldivar discharged his weapon.
  - 17 Q Was that through a fence?
  - 18 A Yes
  - 19 Okay. So I don't think that was when you
  - were in internal affairs. That was later on. 20
  - 21 A I was out there. I --
  - 22 Q Okay.
  - 23 A I -- I was there at least in -- several
  - 24 hours after it happened 'cause I -- I may have been
  - 25 an assistant chief.



1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A Maybe stopped by on my way to work because

3 it was light out and I know it happened at night.

Q Uh-huh. Okay.

5 A I was at the scene for at least a short

6 period of time. I know that.

7 Q Okay.

8 A So...

9 Q Gotcha. Okay. So if -- if I told you

10 that happened in about April of 2018, would you have

11 any reason to disagree with me?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. And you were assistant chief at the

14 time?

15 A Yes. I was assistant chief. So yes.

16 That's correct. That was in April and the other one

17 was in November. That's correct. Yes.

18 Q We'll get back to that shooting --

19 A Okay. Yeah. Okay. I was the assistant

20 chief probably on the way to work and stopped by the

21 scene.

22 Q Gotcha. Okay. All right. So let's go

23 back. So I guess we're in 2012; no real

24 interactions with Officer Saldivar that you recall.

25 A Correct.

1 organization, making recommendations. You know,

2 depending on -- you know, formal discipline by civil

3 service can only be done by the chief. And so, you

4 know, verbal reprimands, letters of reprimands,

5 things like that would sometimes come from the

6 assistant chief. But anything beyond that as far as

7 discipline per civil service law would have to come

8 from the chief. And so that would be some of the

9 roles.

10 Q Okay. I want to unpack that a little bit.

11 Actually, before we do that, what was the process in

12 promoting to assistant chief?

13 A It was an interview process with the

14 chief.

21

23

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15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A And then it's -- by civil service law in

17 Texas, at least, it's pretty much the prerogative of

18 the chief who they want to be assistant chief.

19 Q So you serve at the pleasure of the chief?

20 A Serve at the pleasure of the chief. Yes.

Q And who was the chief at the time?

22 A Mike Thaler.

Q Okay. How long did you serve under him as

24 assistant chief?

25 A He retired on June 30th of 2017.

1 Q Okay. And so in 2012, you get promoted to

2 lieutenant.

3 A Correct.

4 Q And you are at nighttime patrol?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Okay. How long are you there?

7 A July of 2013.

8 Q So a very short time?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. What's next?

11 A I was promoted to assistant chief.

12 Q Okay. When were you promoted to assistant

13 chief?

14 A July of 2013.

15 Q Okay. Got it. What is your role as

16 assistant chief?

17 A I was over operations most of my time as

18 an assistant chief, which is -- again, the easiest

19 way to tell you is everybody that wears a uniform on

20 a day-to-day basis fell under that umbrella.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A The biggest one being patrol. But again,

23 that's the day-to-day operations. That's more

24 setting the vision, the direction, a little bit more

25 involved in the discipline of -- of the

1 Q Is that when you were promoted to active

2 chief?

3 A No.

4 Q All right.

A There was another chief for about 15

6 months between Chief Thaler and myself.

Q Okay. And who was that?

8 A Al Espinoza.

9 Q And you were the assistant chief under him

10 as well?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Did he select you to be assistant

13 chief or was it just --

4 A He didn't unselect me. How about that?

15 Q Got it. When did he leave as chief--- was

16 he formally appointed as chief or was he a --

17 A He was formally appointed as a chief.

18 Q Okay.

19 A The end of November of 2018 was his --

20 when he retired. But I was appointed the acting

21 chief before he officially departed. He didn't come

22 to work the last couple weeks.

23 Q Okay.

A So I was appointed the active chief I

25 believe on -- it was the beginning of November. I

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24

52

1 believe November 7th of 2018.

2 Q Do you -- do you recall why he left his

3 employment as chief?

A He chose to retire.

5 MR. GILES: Objection to form.

6 BY MR. DUBE:

4

11

7 Q Was there any precipitating event that led

8 to his retirement, if you know?

A There were some events. I just know he

10 elected to retire.

Q And what were those events?

12 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

13 THE DEPONENT: He -- there were some

14 issues between him and the mayor. I don't know all

15 the details of it.

16 THE DUBE: Okay.

17 THE DEPONENT: But I just know he told the

18 organization he was retiring.

19 Q Do you know any specifics regarding the

20 issues he -- he was having with the mayor?

21 A I -- there were some personnel issues that

22 he wasn't managing appropriately, at least in the

23 eyes of the mayor.

24 Q Okay. What were those?

25 A Some of the selections to different

1 to another that he dismissed. Those were the --

2 those are what I know of.

3 Q Okay. Were there any over a policy

4 defenses between him and the mayor that led to his

56

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5 resignation?

A When you say policy differences, what do

7 you mean?

Q Like the mayor wanted something done one

9 way; he wanted something done differently.

10 A I'm not sure. I don't know.

11 Q Okay.

12 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

13 BY MR. DUBE:

14 Q So you were the assistant chief from July

15 2013 'til November of 2018.

16 A Correct.

17 Q And I say the, but there are several

18 assistant chiefs. Correct?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Okay. Who were the other assistant chiefs

21 with you?

22 A While Chief Thaler was here, the other

23 assistant chiefs were Mike Jackson and Susan

24 Clifton.

55

25 Q Okay.

1 divisions, some of the way he was handling some of

2 the complaints.

3 Q What was the main point of contention in

4 terms of how he was managing personnel?

5 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

6 THE DEPONENT: I -- I'm not -- I don't

7 want to speak for the mayor, so I'm not sure what

8 the mayor's --

9 BY MR. DUBE:

10 Q I'm not asking you to speak for the mayor.

11 I'm asking you -- I'm asking for what you understood

12 to be those issues were from what you heard or from

13 -- from whatever other source you may have gotten

14 that information from.

15 A I mean, a lot of it would be ju---

16 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

17 THE DEPONENT: -- just to speculate on,

18 you know, what it is. Do you want me to speculate?

19 BY MR. DUBE:

20 Q I want you to tell me what you know.

21 A The only thing I know is there were some

22 concerns at least with the way there a -- an

23 assignment to an investigative division that --

24 where there was a -- a complaint that was made.

25 There was a comment that was made from one officer

1 A And then under Al Espinoza, it was Rick

2 Styron and Kevin Wingerson.

3 Q Kevin?

4 A Wingerson, W-I-N-G-E-R-S-O-N.

Q Okay. And just to get this out of the

6 way, when you were chief, who were your assistant

7 chiefs?

8 A Kevin Wingerson.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A Rick Styron, Jerry Wright. And then

11 Assistant Chief Styron retired and Tom Warnke was

12 who I appointed to assistant chief. And those were

13 the assistant chiefs when I left in October.

14 Q Who's the chief now?

15 A Jerry Wright.

16 Q Did you have any role in selecting the

17 chief that replaced you?

18 A Did I have a role?

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A No, that's the mayor's role.

21 Q All right. Okay. So let's get to you as

22 -- how long were you acting chief for?

23 A From the beginning of November, I --

24 again, I believe it was November 7th of 2018 until I

25 was confirmed by council on January 2nd, 2019.

1 Q As acting chief, were your roles any

2 different than they was as -- as appointed chief?

A The -- the biggest difference is, because

4 of civil service law, the acting chief cannot take

5 some disciplinary actions like formal discipline,

6 per 143 local government code. So an acting chief,

7 if -- if they have not been -- you could have an

8 acting chief confirmed by counsel as the acting

9 chief, but if they are not confirmed by counsel,

10 they can't take disciplinary action such as days

11 off, involuntary demotion, an indefinite suspension

12 or the equivalent of a termination. So you can't do

13 those things. Other than that, pretty much can do

14 all the other stuff.

15 Q So during that time, who -- who would have

16 been able to I guess terminate a -- an officer?

17 A Nobody. They would have gotten -- if

18 there would have been a situation where there had to

19 been termi--- you would have had to gone before City

20 Council and at least gotten confirmed as an acting -

21 - as an acting chief.

22 Q Could you have made the recommendation at

23 --

24 A There's nobody to make a recommendation

25 to, because under civil service law, the only one

1 basically nominated, if you will, by the chief

2 executive, which would be the mayor, and then

3 confirmed by the Council. And then later on in the

4 code, it talks about the department head. Well, to

5 be the department head, you've got to be confirmed

6 by Council. And so City Council could confirm you as

7 an assistant chief so that you could take

8 disciplinary action if you needed to.

9 Q Say that again. I'm sorry. I -- I -- I

10 got lost.

11 A So City Council could confirm you, say we

12 are confirming you as the -- the assis--- the

13 interim chief. That way, you are at least confirmed

14 by Council, which is what you've got to be per 143

15 to be the department head, because the department

16 head of the police department, the police chief is

17 the only person under civil service law that can

18 take disciplinary action.

19 Q Okay. So I guess I -- where I'm getting

20 confused is there are three categories. There's

21 acting chief, there's interim chief and then there's

22 the chief.

23 A Interim and acting are the same thing.

24 They are synonymous, just different terms that

25 different people use.

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1 who can take disciplinary action against an officer

2 is the chief.

3 Q So you had no ability to make a

4 recommendation -- so -- so acting chief has no

5 ability to make a recommendation to the City Council

6 to terminate an officer for a violation of policy?

7 A City Council can't --

8 MR. GILES: Objection to form.

9 THE DEPONENT: City Council cannot -- city

10 can't -- the only person is the chief. City Council

11 cannot fire a police officer. The mayor cannot fire

12 a police officer. The only person that could fire,

13 suspend, indefinitely su--- suspend an officer is

14 the chief.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Nobody else can do it.

17 Q And -- and including the acting chief?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Okay. So if an officer needed to be

20 terminated by an action that warranted termination

21 during that time, what could -- what could be done?

22 A The acting chief could be confirmed by

23 Council as the acting chief and then they could do

24 it, because if you look at 143 and it talks about

25 the department head, the department head has to be

1 Q But I thought you said the City Council

2 could confirm the interim chief.

3 A Interim or acting, whatever you want to

4 call it, they could confirm that. They're saying,

5 basically, we're giving you all the rights as the

6 chief, but we're still looking for a chief. Right?

Q Oh

A It doesn't mean you're going to be the

9 chief forever. It just means temporarily, until we

10 name a permanent chief, if you will -- and it's not

11 permanent, but --

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A -- you have --

14 Q You have --

15 A -- the authority of -- of a chief.

16 Q Were you ever confirmed by City Council,

17 then, in the time between November 2018 and January

18 2019?

19 A No, it was only two months and there

20 wasn't a need at that point to -- to do it.

21 Q Okay. So you were just -- you served as

22 the acting chief, but you were not formally

23 appointed by City Council --

24 A That's correct.

Q -- during that time. But in January 2019,



25

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1 you were appointed.

- 2 A January 2nd of 2019, just under two
- 3 months. Yes.
- Q Okay. And at that time, you had all the
- 5 respons--- you had all the roles and
- 6 responsibilities and -- and -- and authority as
- 7 chief?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. Would you have had the ability to
- 10 fire or terminate an officer for actions he had done
- 11 prior to you obtaining that role?
- 12 A Absolutely. Well, let me back up. As long
- 13 as it met the other requirements of civil service
- 14 law because you have to -- disciplinary action 143
- 15 052 of the local government code, you have to take
- 16 disciplinary action within 180 days of misconduct
- 17 occurring; not the discovery of the misconduct, but
- 18 the misconduct occurring. And so it would have had
- 19 to have taken place -- I couldn't go back five years
- 20 and -- and you know, dig something up and -- and --
- 21 and so just understand that there is -- there are
- 22 some time parameters in civil service.
- 23 Q But if something occurred in November of
- 24 2018, you could -- you had authority when you were
- 25 appointed chief to terminate a officer for that

- 1 decision maker when it came to -- to discipline.
  - 2 And -- and I just want to be clear when we talk
  - 3 about discipline that, okay, when we talk about
  - 4 civil service discipline, it is a disciplinary
  - 5 discipline or days off, it's an indefinite
  - 6 discipline, an involuntary demotion, those are what

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- 7 I consider discipline or what's considered -- not I
- 8 -- it's what state law considers to be discipline.
- 9 But officers also sometimes get verbal repri---
- 10 reprimands or letters of reprimands and they are
- 11 often referred to as discipline, but by civil
- 12 service law, they are not discipline. So just as we
- 13 talk, I just want to make sure that we -- you know,
- 14 are we talking about discipline overall or are we
- 15 talking about civil service discipline? Because
- 16 there's a difference.
- 17 Q I understand. So just -- just to clarify,
- 18 so there's informal discipline in terms of
- 19 reprimands and other things that can be done.
- 20 Correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q Okay. And then there are more final
- 23 disciplinary procedures that -- that can also be
- 24 done.
- 25 A Correct.

1 misconduct?

- 2 A Yes
- 3 Q What are your -- what were your roles as -
- 4 as chief of police for the City of Pasadena Police
- 5 Department?
- 6 A How long you got? No.
- 7 Q At least 'til lunch break.
- 8 A You know, setting the policy of the
- 9 organization, you know, the direction, the vision,
- 10 the day-to-day operations, discipline when it's
- 11 needed. You -- you know, out in the community, you
- 12 know, community relations. And so there -- there's
- 13 -- there's a lot of roles.
- 14 Q What do you mean by setting policy?
- 15 A Uh-huh.
- 16 Q What do you mean by that?
- 17 A Make the policies. Whether that's kind of
- 18 the vision of the organization, which way we're
- 19 going to go, what's important, you know, that --
- 20 that we want to accomplish or both rules and
- 21 policies and procedures, set those for the
- 22 organization as well.

25

- 23 Q And what were your roles and
- 24 responsibilities in terms of discipline?
  - A At the end of the day, I was the final

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1 Q Okay. And who had --

2 MR. GILES: Objection to form.

3 MR. SELBE: Same --

4 BY MR. DUBE:

- 5 Q -- besides -- let me ask this question.
- 6 Okay. For the reprimands and other lesser forms of
- 7 discipline, what -- who had the authority to make
- 7 discipline, what -- who had the adhlority to make
- 8 those recommendations and make those actions?
- 9 A The assistant chief.
- 10 MR. GILES: Objection to form.
- 11 THE DEPONENT: The assistant chiefs were
- 12 able to --
- 13 MR. DUBE: Okay.
- 14 THE DEPONENT: The more informal
- 15 discipline, if you will.
- 16 BY MR. DUBE:
- 17 Q You had the authority to do so?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q And you -- and when -- the chief had the
- 20 authority to make the more final, including termin--
- 21 discipline, including termination?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Okay.
- 24 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 25 BY MR. DUBE:

1 Q Now, I think you used the word decision

2 maker. You were the final -- when you were the

- 3 chief of police for the City of Pasadena, you were
- 4 the final decision maker for policy and discipline?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 7 BY MR. DUBE:
- 8 Q So from January 2019 until you retired,
- 9 you were the final decision maker for the City of
- 10 Pasadena Police Department?
- 11 A For the police department, yes.
- 12 Q You -- you spoke a little bit earlier
- 13 about a shooting that happened in 2018 involving
- 14 Officer Saldivar.
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Okay. Tell us what you recall about that
- 17 incident.
- 18 A He and other officers were dispatched out
- 19 to the area. It was an apartment complex south of
- 20 the Walmart in the 5200 block of Fairmont. It was -
- 21 there was a theft call from Walmart and there was
- 22 also I believe a homeowner had seen someone was on
- 23 the front area with a gun and called the police.
- 24 Officer Saldivar went out there, located the person
- 25 with the gun in his hand and ended up discharging

1 regular gun. It looked like --

- 2 Q A firearm?
- 3 A -- a firearm, not a -- did not -- at a
- 4 glance would not appear to be a BB gun or a pellet

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- 5 gun.
- 6 Q Yeah. So it was a BB gun or a pellet gun,
- 7 but not a firearm. This is the distinction we're
- 8 making?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q But it appeared to look like a firearm?
- 11 A Correct
- 12 Q What was your role in that investigation?
- 13 A I was assistant chief over patrol.
- 14 Q Right, because this was night patrol.
- 15 A Oh, '18, I was assistant chief.
- 16 Q Okay.
- 17 A And -- and I would not have had much of a
- 18 role in it other than it was personnel under my
- 19 command that were involved.
- 20 Q Uh-huh.
- 21 A But as far as the investigation, it would
- 22 have been under investigations, and that assistant
- 23 chief, internal affairs did not fall under -- under
- 24 my command either. And so as far as a real role in
- 25 the investigation, I would not have had one.

1 his weapon. And it was -- I believe a person was on

- 2 the other side of a -- like a wrought iron fence --
- 3 I mean, you could see through it; it was a wrought
- 4 iron fence -- with a gun.
- 5 Q Uh-huh.
- 6 A And Officer Saldivar discharged his weapon
- 7 and he hit a couple different things, but I don't
- 8 think he hit the person, from what I recall.
- 9 Q Do you recall watching the video?
- 10 A Back then, yes.
- 11 Q Do you recall anything about the person
- 12 who was shot at?
- 13 A All I can remember is he had a gun in his
- 14 hand. I don't remember --
- 15 Q Do you -- do you remember how old he was?
- 16 A He was younger, but I don't know -- no, I
- 17 don't -- late teens, early twenties comes to mind,
- 18 from what I recall, but...
- 19 Q Do you recall if the gun was a -- was a
- 20 working gun or -- or a toy gun?
- 21 A It was working. I believe it was either a
- 22 BB or a pellet gun, but it was -- it was a working
- 23 gun.
- 24 Q Okay.
- 25 A And I recall it looked like a -- I say a

1 Q Uh-huh. But you recall saying that --

- 2 that you actually went out on the scene?
- 3 A Yes.

- 4 Q Okay. Tell -- tell us about that.
- 5 A I just remember stopping by. It was early
- 6 morning. I know there was a light outside. But
- 7 that would not have been uncommon for me on
- 8 something that happened overnight where they still
- 9 had the scene for me to make an appearance and --
- 10 and check on everybody out there.
- 11 Q What do you recall about that particular
- 12 night in terms of what you did at the scene?
- 13 A I don't remember doing anything other than
- 14 finding out what happened.
- 15 Q So you found out what happened at the
- 16 scene?
- 17 A I -- yes.
- 18 Q Okay. Well, how did you find out what
- 19 happened?
- 20 A I would have talked to somebody out there.
- 21 Q Do you recall who you spoke to?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q And do you recall what they said?
- 24 A Other than what I just told you in my --
- 25 you know, the rundown of the scenario of the guns



1 had been stolen from Walmart, the original call was

- 2 somebody on the front porch that somebody had seen
- 3 or the front door area on a ring camera with a gun.
- 4 Saldavar had gotten out there, located the person;
- 5 he was on the other side of the fence, had a gun in
- 6 his hand. Officer Saldavar fired his gun several
- 7 times, didn't strike the person, but -- I think he
- 8 struck a car, a building and maybe the fence, from
- 9 what I recall. But that was -- that's all I recall
- 10 from it.
- 11 Q Okay. And you said you recall watching a
- 12 video of the shooting?
- 13 A Uh-huh. Yes.
- 14 Q Do you recall reviewing the reports of
- 15 them -- of that investigation?
- 16 A Do I recall it? No.
- 17 O Okay.
- 18 A Would I have? Yes, just because he was
- 19 under my command and the recommendation would have
- 20 come up from the chain of command because that's how
- 21 it works.
- 22 Q Uh-huh.
- 23 A But do I have an independent recollection
- 24 of reading it, I -- I don't.
- 25 Q Okay. Would you have read the report of

- A I thought. But I -- it's been so long,
  - 2 I'm not going to -- I can't tell you for certain
  - that that happened or it didn't happen, actually.
  - Q Let -- let's just ask this question. What
  - are your expectations for an officer encountering a
  - person who has a -- a firearm in their hand?
    - A And officer --
  - MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
  - 9 BY MR. DUBE:
  - 10 Q Per policy.
  - 11 A Per policy --
  - 12 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
  - 13 THE DEPONENT: So -- so policy says, when
  - possible, to give a command. But the other -- you -14
  - you asked about my expectation. The other thing is
  - action is faster than reaction as well.
  - 17 MR. DUBE: Uh-huh.
  - 18 THE DEPONENT: And so certainly, officers
  - or really anybody at least in the State of Texas has
  - 20 a right to defend themselves if they are in fear of,
  - you know, imminent bodily injury, death. And you
  - 22 know, somebody having a -- a firearm, you know,
  - 23 expectation, if you -- somebody has a firearm in
  - 24 their hand and is encountered by a police officer,
  - 25 the expectation is that you drop it whether we get

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1 the verbal command out or not, that they are still a

2 threat to the officer.

Q Per policy, should the officer give the 3

person an -- an opportunity to drop the weapon?

MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

6 THE DEPONENT: The policy say when

7 possible. It doesn't say that you -- you -- you

- 8 know, you have to or you're in violation of policy.
- 9 And so it's going to -- you know, depending on the
- 10 circumstances, it depends, you know -- there's --
- 11 there's countless scenarios that, you know, we could
- 12 go through. And so you know, that's one thing with
- policy is trying to give them enough guidance, but
- 14 also giving them the latitude to navigate through
- 15 these dynamic, ever-changing situations. And so we
- 16 can't write a policy for every single situation that
- 17 occurs, and so we basically trying to give the
- 18 officers, hey, these are -- these are the ground
- rules you have to operate between, but we're not
- going to tell you, you know, every single scenario
- 21 how to do it because it just would not be possible.
- 22
- I mean, the scenario you're talking about,
- 23 with this one, I mean, the -- the officer -- I mean,
- 24 we're going to write a policy that says they don't
- 25 drop the -- you know, drop -- if they are given --

1 the interview with the person who was shot at?

- A I would have read whatever was in the
- 3 internal affairs report. So...
- Q Do you recall reading that the person who
- 5 was shot at indicated that he had never raised his
- 6 gun at the officer?
- 7 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- THE DEPONENT: I don't recall him saying 8
- 9 that.
- 10 BY MR. DUBE:
- 11 Q So let's -- let me guess I'll ask it.
- 12 What do you recall about what the various -- what
- 13 Officer Saldivar said happened and what the
- 14 witnesses or -- and what the person who was shot at
- 15 said?
- 16 A All I remember is that Officer Saldivar
- 17 had told him, you know, drop the gun for -- whatever
- 18 the words were. And then the person had the gun in
- 19 the hand and Rigo fired his. But as far as the -- I
- 20 -- I don't remember the exact -- I have not gone
- 21 back and reviewed that since probably 2018. So it's
- 22 probably been six -- five or six years since I've
- 23 read that report.
- Q Do you have recollection of Officer 24
- 25 Saldivar telling the person drop the gun?

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1 you know, given instruction, drop the gun; they

- 2 don't drop it within half a second, you're -- you
- 3 know, and so it's got to be where it's possible.
- 4 And so it's going to depend on -- it's going to
- 5 depend on the circumstances and -- and in this
- 6 particular scenario that -- that you're talking
- 7 about with Officer Saldivar, it -- in my estimation,
- 8 you know, it was a reasonable use of force.
  - Q So you're affirming, you know, the
- 10 determination that it was reasonable use of force?
- 11 A The recommendation would have come in from
- 12 the lieutenant and I would have concurred with it.
- 13 I don't remember exactly when this happened. As far
- 14 as recommendation came up, it -- these
- 15 investigations typically take some time to play out.
- 16 And so I don't remember was that made before I was
- 17 the acting chief or was Chief Espinoza still there,
- 18 because when this happened, I -- I don't know.
- 19 Q Okay. And this happened April 2018.
- 20 Correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q And Mr. Schenk was shot on November 2018?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q Okay. So as you're evaluating the
- 25 circumstances of the shooting of Mr. Schenk, were

- 1 video of Officer Saldivar. I don't know.
- 2 Q Okay. And I don't know if you misspoke or

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- 3 not. You said the academy. So does the academy
- 4 have authority or opportunity to meet with ca---
- 5 with officers who are not cadets and actual officers
- 6 who are actually on the force?
  - A Sometimes they did.
- Q Okay. Was that -- was that -- would it be
- 9 possible when you're assistant chief or acting chief
- 10 or -- or appointed chief, did you have the -- the
- 11 opportunity to recommend for an officer -- after
- 12 reviewing a report, hey, maybe you've -- you fell
- 13 within the structures of policy, but there's still
- 14 things you could have done differently; review this
- 15 with -- with a -- with instructor or some other type
- 16 of training like that?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q So you had that -- you had that ability to
- 19 do that?

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- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay.
- 22 MR. GILES: Hey, Dimitri, we've been going
- 23 about an hour or -- or even longer than that. Any
- 24 chance we could take a break?
- 25 MR. DUBE: Of course. How long?

1 you area that Officer Saldivar had been involved in

- 2 another shooting incident that same year?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. Let's go back a little bit. So you
- 5 -- I -- I hear you when you say that, you know, you
- 6 can't give policy upfront to cover every possible
- 7 scenario an officer will encounter on the street.
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q Okay. As when -- as assistant chief or as
- 10 chief, or any time while you were at the police
- 11 department, did -- was there ever any procedures to
- 12 go over with the officer the video of the incident
- 13 and -- and suggest how they could have handled that
- 14 scenario differently?
- 15 A Are you asking did it happen in this case
- 16 or did it ever happen?
- 17 Q Well, I -- well, both -- I'm going to ask
- 18 you about did it ever happen and then -- so let's
- 19 start with that first.
- 20 A I -- I know from time to time the training
- 21 academy would review videos of incidents; not just
- 22 shootings, but pursuits, any kind of incident. They23 would review them. I can't tell you one way or
- 24 another definitively whether, you know, in this
- 25 particular incidence anybody, you know, watched the

- 1 MR. GILES: Ten minutes.
- MR. DUBE: Sure.
- 3 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. The time is
- 4 now 10:46. We are off the record.
- 5 (Whereupon, a break was taken from the
- 6 proceedings.)
- 7 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 11:01.
- 8 We're back on the record.
- 9 BY MR. DUBE:
- 10 Q When you were in the -- worked in the
- 11 chief's office, not just as the, you know, appointed
- 12 chief, but assistant chief, interim chief and all of
- 13 those things, did you keep apprized of national news
- 14 stories related to police shooting incidents?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Why?
- 17 A It's better information, current events,
- 18 know what's going on.
  - 9 Q Did that inform how -- you know, what --
- 20 how you trained your officers and what your -- what
- 21 you informed them or anything of that sort?
- 22 A I mean, that would be part of it. Learn
- 23 from other -- you know, other incidents that
- 24 happened.
- 25 Q So I guess let's -- let's go just



1 generally, you know -- I remember I asked you a

2 question before, if as internal affairs, if you

- 3 noticed any particular trends that needed to be, you
- 4 know, fixed or to let your officers at least -- that
- 5 would be the office -- the -- the job of the
- 6 persons, the people in the chief's office. Okay.
- 7 Remember -- do you recall that testimony?
- 8 A Uh-huh.
- 9 Q Okay.
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And now, you know, we're in the part of
- 12 the story that you're going -- you're now in the
- 13 chief's office. Right?
- 14 A Right.
- 15 Q As assistant chief, as the -- as the
- 16 interim chief and then eventually as the actual
- 17 appointed chief.
- 18 A Correct.

23

- 19 Q In -- in -- in those capacities, how did
- 20 you direct policy and inform policy and things on
- 21 trends that you notice from -- from day-to-day
- 22 experience within your police force?
  - A Some of it would be conversations with the
- 24 -- with the training academy because they would
- 25 also, you know, stay abreast. But it -- it was, you

- 1 A And the sergeant could provide roll call
- 2 training to the officers that are present.
- 3 Q Like these are things you need to keep --

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- 4 keep abreast of, things you need to know and be
- 5 aware of?
  - A Correct.
- 7 Q So the -- and what else?
- 8 A The training academy.
- Q Uh-huh.
- 10 A In-service training could provide updated
- 11 training on -- on various, you know, topics.
- 12 Q Uh-huh. What else?
- 13 A We could push out training through a
- 14 platform we have on -- on different topics and it
- 15 will keep track of the officers that, you know, have
- 16 taken the training. Those are the main -- and then
- 17 -- and then there's one on one too, you know, if --
- 18 you know, sometimes there's not a policy violation,
- 19 but maybe there's a better way to do it and so the
- 20 supervisor sitting down with -- with an officer and
- 21 saying, look, you did not violate policy, but maybe
- 22 there was a better way to do it. Because in -- in
- 23 police work, there's a -- you know, a lot of ways to
- 24 skin a cat. And so --
- 25 Q Right.

1 know, also, you know, if we had officer injuries,

- 2 you know, a -- one of the common things is, you
- 3 know, vehicle backing, all right, backing up, you
- 4 know. And so we would do an analysis to see, you
- 5 know, our crashes at the end of the year. And you6 know, we may see a bunch of backing accidents and
- 7 so, you know, that may nece--- necessitate some, you
- 8 know, backing training, for example. And so it --
- 9 it really just depends.
- 10 Q Uh-huh. So would you -- like how would
- 11 you -- if you notice something that needed to be
- 12 trained by your officers, how would you make that
- 13 known? What are the various forms of communication
- 14 you would use?
- 15 A Roll call training was a big one.
- 16 Q What -- what's that?
- 17 A Where the supervisor may go over a topic
- 18 in -- in -- in roll call.
- 19 Q Uh-huh. And what's roll call? Just
- 20 assume we know nothing about the police.
- 21 A Patrol at the beginning of the shift.
- 22 Q Uh-huh.
- 23 A The patrol shift that -- you know, they
- 24 will meet.
- 25 Q Uh-huh.

- 1 A -- just because you do it one way and I do
  - 2 it another doesn't make it wrong. One may be better
  - 3 than the other, but it doesn't make the other
  - 4 person's wrong.
    - Q And I guess what -- what was the culture
  - 6 at the police depart--- Pasadena Police Department
  - 7 while you were there in terms of providing those
  - 8 type of training opportunities for the officers?
  - 9 A We did it. That -- that was -- that was
  - 10 important to me. You know, and on the discipline
  - 11 side of things, if there was discipline that wasn't
  - 12 just discipline, but if there was -- you know, reme-
  - 13 -- remedial training aspect that went with it, we
  - 14 would avail ourselves to that as well.
  - 15 Q Okay. Did you guys go over, you know, I
  - 16 guess past scenarios that had occurred involving
  - 17 your officers to train current officers to how to
  - 18 handle those situations?
  - 19 A I know the academy uses some past
  - 20 scenarios. Which ones, I don't know, but I do know
  - 21 that they use --
  - 22 Q Okay. So I guess, then, let's back up a
  - 23 little bit. What's the role of the academy in terms
  - 24 of training officers post, you know, graduation from
  - 25 -- from cadet school?



1 A So the state requires ongoing training

- 2 just like most professions. So you have to have so
- 3 many hours of training. And so they provide that.
- 4 But also, we -- I mean, the Pasadena Police
- 5 Department as an organization each year would often
- 6 times have mandatory training that we would put
- 7 officers through, depending on, you know -- you
- 8 know, maybe some current events, what's going on,
- 9 you know, crisis intervention, mental health, you
- 10 know, is one that, you know, comes to mind that, you
- 11 know, I know we -- we did training on. Excited
- 12 delirium is another one that I know that -- you
- 13 know, and so that is another way that we would --
- 14 would do it.
- 15 Q Okay. As police, do -- do -- did you
- 16 recall an incident involving the shooting of Tamir
- 17 Rice?
- 18 A Is that the one in Cleveland?
- 19 Q Yes.
- 20 A I -- I -- yes.
- 21 Q You -- you were aware of that?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Do you recall the circumstances of that
- 24 shooting?
- 25 A I believe it was a juvenile. He had a

- 1 A It -- if you can create space, to be able
  - 2 to create space at times, that was really the big

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- 3 takeaway is don't force the situation if you don't
- 4 have to and take a little bit more time. That was,
- 5 from what I recall, what the -- the message was.
  - Q Do you recall like -- like around what
- 7 year the Tamir Rice incident occurred?
- B A No idea.
  - Q Do you know whether or not it had occurred
- 10 before or after the -- the -- and we're going to
- 11 talk -- the shooting with the -- at the fence with
- 12 Officer Saldivar, the person who was shot at, his
- 13 name was Angel Ramirez. So I'm going to refer to
- 14 that as the Ramirez shooting.
- 15 A Okay.
- 16 Q Okay? Do you recall whether or not it was
- 17 before or after the Ramirez shooting?
- 18 A I don't recall that.
- 19 Q Okay. If it occurred before the Ramirez
- 20 shooting, would that have been you think in your
- 21 mind, in the back of your mind, at the time of the
- 22 Ramirez shooting?
- 23 A I -- six years ago, I don't remember.
- 24 Q Okay. If it happened April twenty---
- 25 about four years before the Ramirez shooting, would

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- 1 gun. The officer came up and I believe the -- the -
- 2 he ended up shooting Tamir Rice. I believe he had
- 3 the gun in his hand. I -- I -- I don't remember if
- 4 it was a firearm or a BB gun, but something. But
- 5 vaguely, do I remember it? Yes. Much more than what
- 6 I just told you, no, but that's -- yeah.
- 7 Q No, that's pretty good. That's pretty --
- 8 that -- that -- and it was a BB gun.
- 9 A Was it? Okay.
- 10 Q Do you recall the -- do you recall how
- 11 long after the officer arrived on the scene that he
- 12 shot Tamir Rice?
- 13 A It was pretty quick. I remember that.
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 A As far as time, I don't know.
- 16 Q Did that present any opportunities -- or
- 17 any opportunities for you in your department?
- 18 A I know there were discussions about it
- 19 amongst some of the -- the patrol supervisors in --
- 20 in taking it to roll call. But other than that, no.
- 21 Q Do you recall if it was actually ever
- 22 taken to roll call?
- 23 A I -- I know it's -- yes.
- 24 Q And what -- what do you recall the
- 25 discussion was at roll call training?

1 you have expected that the -- the roll call training

- 2 that you discussed would have occurred prior to the
- 3 Ramirez shoo--- shooting?
- 4 A It would have, yes.
  - Q Okay. So it would have happened fairly
- 6 quickly after the Tamir Rice shooting became
- 7 national news?
  - A Somewhere -- yes. Somewhere. Yeah.
- 9 Q I'm going to show you what's been
- 10 previously marked as exhibit 19. I'm going to play
- 11 it both at regular speed and then --
- 12 MR. DUBE: Video -- video tech -- I forgot
- 13 your name, sir. What's your name, sir?
- 14 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: My name is Vincent.
  - MR. DUBE: Vincent. Sorry about that,
- 16 Vincent. Could you --

15

- EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: No problem.
- 18 MR. DUBE: Once you start playing it,
- 19 could you give me I guess keyboard control?
- 20 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Yes, just give me one
- 21 moment. I just need to get it up.
- 22 MR. DUBE: And you're playing it with a
- 23 VIC player. Correct?
- 24 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Yes. I'm playing it
- 25 over -- sharing it now. You should see the video.

86 88 1 MR. DUBE: Okay. Yeah. Q Okay. Do you think is that consistent 2 **EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Correct?** 2 with his training? 3 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. MR. DUBE: Do you see it? 4 THE DEPONENT: Yes. THE DEPONENT: Is it consistent with 4 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Let me -- just give 5 5 training? Could be, yes. 6 me a moment to -- all right. You should have 6 BY MR. DUBE: 7 control. 7 Q What factors would you -- would you 8 MR. DUBE: Okay. Is this exhibit 19? 8 analyze? 9 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Yes. A The -- the threat to Officer Saldivar. 10 MR. DUBE: Okay. 10 Somebody's got a gun in their hand. Again, action 11 BY MR. DUBE: 11 being faster than reaction certainly could, you know Q So I'm showing you what has been marked as 12 -- gun in the hand, you know, at his side is -- is a 12 13 exhibit 19. It's a shooting. It's the Ramirez 13 -- could be a threat to the officer. 14 shooting, captured on Officer Saldivar's body cam 14 Q Texas is an open carry state. Correct? 15 video. 15 A Hasn't always been. A Okay. 16 16 Q Okay. Do you recall if it was in 2018? Okay? And you -- you recall having seen 17 A 2018? I don't recall. 17 Q 18 that? Q Okay. Are officers authorized to shoot 19 A At some point. Maybe years ago, yes. 19 individuals solely because they have a weapon in 20 MR. DUBE: I mo--- I move exhibit 19 into 20 their hand? 21 21 evidence. Any objection? A Depends on the circumstances. 22 MR. GILES: No objection to its admission 22 Q Right. That's -- but is the -- is the 23 during the deposition. 23 presence of a gun in a person's hand sufficient MR. DUBE: Okay. Thank you. How about 24 24 reason on its own for an officer to open fire? 25 Steven, any opposition? Steven, any opposition? 25 A It could be. 87 89 1 The Deponent: He's on mute. Q Okay. What -- what factors could make it 2 MR. DUBE: Oh. 2 so? 3 MR. SELBE: I -- I have no objection to it A If -- if an officer is in uniform, gets 4 being played in the deposition. 4 out to contact the individual and they have a gun in 5 MR. DUBE: Thank you, sir. 5 their hand, the -- I -- there's a reasonable 6 (Plaintiff's exhibit 19 referenced by 6 expectation that -- I mean, it's a threat to the 7 identification.) 7 officer, a threat to anybody, but certainly, you 8 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 8 know, a law enforcement officer gets out -- you BY MR. DUBE: 9 know, contacts somebody and they have a gun in their Q What are your thoughts about seeing that? 10 hand, I believe that it could pose an imminent 10 11 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 11 threat of death or bodily injury to themselves or 12 THE DEPONENT: My -- my thoughts? 12 somebody else. 13 MR. DUBE: Uh-huh. 13 Q So -- so the officer would then be THE DEPONENT: I'm not sure what -- I 14 authorized to shoot on site? A In this cir---15 mean, I can tell you what I saw. I don't know --15 16 BY MR. DUBE: 16 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 17 THE DEPONENT: -- circumstance I just gave 17 Q Sure. What do you see? 18 A I saw him get out. Clearly -- or at least 18 you, yes. 19 to me, my thought is, he says, oh shit, which would 19 BY MR. DUBE: 20 indicate to me or is consistent with his, you know, 20 Q How does that play with re--- with respect 21 account of it where, you know, he had a gun in his 21 to what we just discussed with the Tamir Rice 22 hand and he discharged his weapon. 22 shooting and -- and the need to sometimes take time 23 Q Uh-huh. Did you tell him tell the 23 and assess and -- and everything else you said 24 individual to drop a weapon? 24 before? 25 25 A No. MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

90 THE DEPONENT: So I think there's a couple 1 it. Just give me one moment.

- 2 things here. I think one is -- I mean, hindsight's
- 3 always 2020, and the other is because you or
- 4 somebody else thinks it should be done one way
- 5 doesn't make the way another person does it as wrong
- 6 or unjust -- or not justified. And so it -- it -- it
- 7 depends.
- 8 Q Uh-huh.
  - A And so, you know, potentially, you know,
- 10 could another officer have handled this another way
- 11 and been justified? Yes. But it doesn't make
- 12 Officer Saldivar's wrong. You know, a reasonable
- 13 officer in that situation and in that set of
- 14 circumstance, you know, I believe could take the
- 15 same actions or would take the same actions.
- 16 Q Let me ask this question. Do you think
- 17 the way that Officer Saldi--- actually, I already
- 18 asked that question. I'll strike that. Would there
- 19 have been an opportunity to do an evaluation and
- 20 investigation of this to then speak to Officer
- 21 Saldivar regarding how he handled the situation?
- 22 A Could -- I mean, every situation, you
- 23 could talk about it. So is it an opportunity? Of
- 24 course. I mean, any incident there is, there's an
- 25 opportunity to discuss it.

- MR. DUBE: No worries.
- EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: And you would like

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- 4 the same exhibit, exhibit 19?
- 5 MR. DUBE: Yes.
  - EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Okay.
- 7 BY MR. DUBE:
- Q So when you watch videos like this, do you
- watch it at regular speed or do you sometimes slow
- 10 it down?
- A You usually do it in both, but you also
- 12 have to be careful with, you know, body cam, dash
- 13 cam, for two reasons. One is the field of view is
- 14 often different than the officer's field of view at
- 15 the time that the event occurred. And the other is
- 16 we have the luxury of looking at it in hindsight and
- 17 Monday morning quarterbacking an officer's split 18 second decisions, slowing it down. And whether it's
- 19 Rigo, Officer Saldivar or any other officer, don't
- 20 have the advantage of slow motion out there at the
- 21 scene. So it's -- it's a dynamic situation.
- 22 And so again, you have to judge it
- 23 through, you know, reasonableness, you know, the
- 24 threat, the -- the totality of the circumstances and
- 25 not just frame by frame. But do we look at them in
- Q Okay. Was -- do you know whether or not
- 2 Officer Sal--- Saldivar was trained after this
- 3 incident how -- regarding the way he handled this
- 4 particular shooting?

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- A I don't know the answer to that.
- Q Would you have expected him to -- would
- 7 you have expected -- was that a policy of the police
- 8 department to go over shootings and other similar
- 9 incidents with the officer afterwards to dis--- to -10 - to explain to them or to -- you know, what better
- 11 ways to handle the situation could have been?
- MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 12
- THE DEPONENT: That was a long question. 13
- 14 BY MR. DUBE:
- Q Sure. I'll reask it. Did you have a 15
- 16 policy in the Pasadena Police Department to review
- 17 shootings or other significant uses of force of
- 18 officers regarding the way they handled the
- 19 situation?
- 20 A There was not a policy, no.
- 21 MR. DUBE: Vincent, this is in media
- 22 player. Is there a possibility for us to do it in
- 23 VIC player?
- 24 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Let me see. I
- 25 believe so. I will have to unshare and then reshare

- 1 slow motion? Absolutely. But it's more than just
  - 2 looking at a video in slow motion and identifying
  - 3 something after the fact. It's again, the -- the --
  - Q Totality?

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- A The totality of it. And on this
- 6 particular one, it's, you know, the middle of the
- 7 night. I know the original call was he was at a --
- 8 you know, at least in front of the -- I believe he
- 9 was knocking on a door, actually, with a gun in his
- 10 hand. And so, you know, Officer Saldivar, you know
- 11 -- armed is the wrong word -- but you know, armed
- 12 with that inform--- you know, having that -- that
- 13 knowledge going into the situation, you know, is a
- 14 factor in it other than just a video at slow motion
- 15 or frame by frame.
- 16 Q Thank you.
- 17 A And while you're loading it, I -- you
- 18 know, the -- the example I'll give you is right
- here, is this body camera is facing toward the left-
- 20 hand of the street.
- 21 Q Uh-huh.
  - A You know, from the picture here, Saldavar
- 23 -- whether he is or he isn't, I don't know, but just
- 24 as an example, he could be looking to the left right
- 25 now and see something that you and I don't see on

1 body camera right here after the fact.

- 2 Q Uh-huh.
- 3 A And so I think that, you know, we need to
- 4 make sure that -- or I want to make sure that the
- 5 record at least reflects that, you know, body
- 6 cameras and dash cameras are a great tool, but they
- 7 can have limitations and, you know.
- 8 Q Yeah. But the can also -- they can also
- 9 show -- you know, resolve factual discrepancies.
- 10 Correct?
- 11 A Potentially, yes.
- 12 MR. DUBE: I'm trying to press play and
- 13 it's not happening. Okay. I'm trying one more
- 14 down.
- 15 BY MR. DUBE:
- 16 Q Do you recall whether or not you watched
- 17 this particular incident on -- in slow motion or
- 18 not?
- 19 A I don't recall.
- 20 Q Okay.
- 21 (Whereupon, a video was played.)
- 22 BY MR. DUBE:
- 23 Q Can you describe what you are seeing?
- 24 A I see a gun and it appears to be in his
- 25 left hand.

- 1 Q Okay. Did he give an oppor-- did -- do
  - 2 you -- did he give him sufficient time to drop the

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- 3 weapon before he began firing?
- 4 A I believe he did.
- 5 Q Okay.
- 6 A He got out of the car in a marked police
- 7 car. He's in a marked police car with lights on and
- 8 a uniform.
- 9 Q And do you recall what the person had done
- 10 right immediately beforehand?
  - 1 A Stole the guns from Walmart and then was
- 12 at -- on the front porch of somebody's house that
- 13 called the police with a gun in his hand.
- 14 Q Do you recall that the person had just
- 15 jumped the fence? Correct? Do you recall that
- 16 part?
- 17 A I don't -- I don't -- no.
- 18 Q Okay.
- 19 A I don't know how he got over the fence. I
- 20 don't recall that.
- 21 Q Okay. Would you have recalled -- would
- 22 you have recalled that at the time you reviewed this
- 23 incident?

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- 24 A Yeah. Yeah, 'cause it -- I mean, if it's
- 25 in the report, yes, I would have.

1 Q Uh-huh.

- 2 A It almost looked like it was tilted a
- 3 little forward, not straight down, but titled a
- 4 little forward is what it looked like to me.
- 5 Q Okay. Uh-huh.
- 6 A And you have an officer that's in uniform
- 7 in a police car.
- 8 Q Uh-huh.
- 9 A It looks like his lights are on, so it's
- 10 pretty clear -- or should be clear, at least as I
- 11 evaluate this, that he knows he's being contacted by
- 12 the police.
- 13 Q Uh-huh.
- 14 (Whereupon, a video was played.)
- 15 BY MR. DUBE:
- 16 Q Did you see any opportunity where Officer
- 17 Saldivar gave the person an opportunity to drop
- 18 their weapon?
- 19 A Did I see it?
- 20 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 21 BY MR. DUBE:
- 22 Q Uh-huh. Did he -- well, let me ask you,
- 23 did he -- did he state -- ask the person to drop the
- 24 weapon?
- 25 A Did he state? No.

1 Q Okay.

- 2 A But the -- the other thing, I mean,
- 3 talking about the fence, I mean, clearly you can see
- 4 through it. He could -- Officer Saldivar can see
- 5 him and see the -- the gun and --
- 6 Q Uh-huh.
- 7 A -- the other person has the same
- 8 opportunity. And so that fence is not -- it's not a
- 9 barrier. It's not bullet proof. It's not -- and so
- 10 certainly, the -- you know, the -- the presence of
- 11 the fence does not take away the threat, you know,
- 12 to Officer Saldivar or others of death or, you know,
- 13 serious bodily injury because he has a firearm.
- 14 Q So was -- was there any opportunity in --
- 15 upon what you just reviewed for Officer Salv---
- 46. Coldinar to have bondled this situation different
- 16 Saldivar to have handled this situation differently
- 17 or in a better way?
- 18 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 19 TEH DEPONENT: Is there an opportunity? I
- 20 -- I -- I don't know the answer to that. I
- 21 mean, we can play the what-if game. I mean, he
- 22 could have given him a, you know, drop the gun, but
- 23 --
- 24 Q So --
- 25 A -- again, action -- it's possible, but



Case 4:22-cv-03571 Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 26 of 128 Page 26 Of 128 Page 26 98 100 1 action being faster than reaction, the person could 1 BY MR. DUBE: 2 have responded by firing a firearm at -- toward Q Did you obs--- did you observe the person 3 Officer Saldivar. So you know, could he have done 3 raising their gun towards the officer at any point 4 it? Yeah. What would the result have been? Maybe during this incident? 5 he dropped it; maybe he shot at him. We don't know. A You couldn't see it. Q Yeah. I'm not asking you what the result Q Okay. In the video, you could -- you did 7 is. I'm asking, you know, from your position as 7 not see the person raising their gun at the officer. 8 chief of police, assistant chief, where you're Correct? 9 trying to, you know, evaluate and train officers to 9 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 10 handle these situations and other situations, you 10 By Mr. Dube: 11 know, like -- you know, upon reviewing this, you 11 Q You -- and I can play it again for you. 12 know, were the -- you know, would you have trained 12 A You cannot see it because he's being 13 Officer Saldivar to handle this in a better way or 13 blocked. 14 given him guidance as to how to handle this in a 14 BY MR. DUBE: 15 different way? 15 Q Okay. Well, do you see a person raising 16 A No. the gun -- what -- what blocks the view? 17 17 A Officer Saldivar. MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 18 BY MR. DUBE: 18 Q Doing what? 19 Q So -- so you really -- so it's your 19 A Raising his firearm. 20 testimony that you believe he handled this situation 20 Q Okay. So do you agree with me that prior 21 in an optimal way? 21 to Officer Saldivar raising his weapon that the 22 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 22 person did not first raise -- raise their weapon? 23 THE DEPONENT: I -- I believe it was 23 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 24 BY MR. DUBE: 24 within policy and state law. 25 BY MR. DUBE: 25 Q From what you could see. 99 101 Q That's not the question I asked. So if A The only thing I can tell you definitively 2 you -- if you can answer my question, I -- I would 2 is the last spot that you see the firearm is at his 3 side. What happens after that, I can't tell you 3 really appreciate that. The question I asked --MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 4 based on the video. 5 BY MR. DUBE: 5 BY MR. DUBE: 6 Q The question I asked was, do you believe Q Okay. If the person never raised his 7 that Officer Saldivar handled the situation in an 7 weapon prior to Officer Saldivar discharging his 8 weapon, would that still have been a justified use optimal way? 8 9 A Yes. of force? 10 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 10 A lanswered --11 BY MR. DUBE: 11 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. Q And you would agree with me that he did 12 THE DEPONENT: I answered that yes. 12 13 not inform the per--- he did not ask the person to 13 BY MR. DUBE: 14 drop the weapon. Correct? 14 Q Okay. Even if he never raised his weapon? 15 A He did not verbalize. Correct. 15 A Correct. 16 Q Okay. And you would agree with me that 16 MR. GILES: Objection. 17 the video shows that upon immediately seeing the 17 BY MR. DUBE: 18 person with the weapon at his side, Officer Saldivar 18 Q So if he had the weapon at his side during 19 says, oh, shit, and then begins shooting. 19 the entire encounter, the mere presence of the 20 weapon in his hand would be sufficient reason for MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

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21 the officer to shoot at him?

MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

24 hypothetical. It's -- 'cause I -- I don't have all

25 the facts that -- all I can tell you is what I know,

THE DEPONENT: I mean, it's a

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22 BY MR. DUBE:

THE DEPONENT: Yes.

Q Okay. That's what you observed?

MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

102 104 1 you know, or believe happened in this event. A That's correct. 2 BY MR. DUBE: 2 Q Can you explain how that squares with I 3 guess your review or your analysis of what occurred Q No. I'm not asking about this event. I in the Tamir Rice shooting situation? 4 am giving you, in fact, a hypothetical. If the 5 person never raised his weapon and he had the weapon 5 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 6 at his side the entire time, would the officer have THE DEPONENT: What do you mean? 7 been justified in shooting him at that time? 7 BY MR. DUBE: 8 A What are the circumstance --Q Can you explain how your view -- your 9 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. Objection. 9 review of this situation squares with the 10 Form. conclusions you stated you learned from the Tamir 11 TEH DEPONENT: What are the circumstances Rice shooting? 12 leading up to it, time of day, what information does 12 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 13 the officer have? I mean --13 THE DEPONENT: I don't know that I ever 14 BY MR. DUBE: 14 compared the two. I -- I didn't -- I didn't compare 15 Q Okay. I'll -- I'll -- I'll -- I'll --15 the two. I -- I -- what I told you about the Tamir 16 I'll add to it. 16 Rice is all I know about the Tamir Rice. And so I 17 17 evaluated this -- this event based on the facts and A Okay. 18 Q To my hypothetical. So my hypothetical is 18 the circumstance that were available to me at the 19 time and -- and --19 the person has jumped a -- has been accused of stealing some pellet guns from Walmart. Okay? 20 BY MR. DUBE: 20 21 21 A Okay. Q Do you see how somebody could make that 22 Q He is observed at a -- at a residence. 22 comparison given the fact that both scenarios 23 23 involved a teenager with a pellet gun, an officer A Okay. 24 Q Okay? An officer comes upon him. 24 shooting upon them within less than a second of 25 25 arriving at the scene? A Okay. 103 105 Q Right? And he -- he has jumped the fence THE DEPONENT: Do I --2 prior to officer coming up upon him. The officer MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 3 sees him and the officer -- and he has a gun at his TEH DEPONENT: -- see how somebody could? 3 4 side without ever raising it at the officer. Is BY MR. DUBE: 5 that sufficient reason for the officer to shoot at 5 Q Yeah. 6 him at that time? 6 A I --MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 7 Q Do you -- yes. THE DEPONENT: Yes. THE DEPONENT: I -- I mean, I -- I don't 8 9 BY MR. DUBE: 9 know the answer to that. I don't know what other 10 people --Q Okay. Is the gun at a person's side, does 10 11 that police officer in a bodily harm or death? 11 BY MR. DUBE: MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 12 12 Q Well, okay, do you see a comparison THE DEPONENT: I think it depends on the 13 13 between the two? 14 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 14 circumstances. 15 15 BY MR. DUBE: MR. DUBE: Personally. Q Okay. In this video, was the -- was -- is 16 THE DEPONENT: Do I --17 17 it, in your opinion, Officer Saldivar was in MR. GILES: Objection. 18 imminent bodily -- or imminent harm of bodily harm 18 THE DEPONENT: The problem is I don't have 19 or death? 19 enough information other than the limited that I 20 20 have on Tamir Rice. I got more on this one. A Yes. 21 Q Okay. Is it also your testimony that upon 21 There's at least some video. The circumstances, I -22 viewing -- reviewing the video, you did not feel any 22 - I don't remember the circumstance leading up to 23 need to -- to counsel or guide Officer Saldivar into 23 Tamir Rice. 24 how to better approach this or similar situations in 24 MR. DUBE: Uh-huh. 25 the future? 25 THE DEPONENT: And so I think we have to

106 108 1 be careful looking at them in a vacuum and saying 1 what's shortly after? 2 this is a teenager with a pellet gun who was shot A Probably within the hour. 3 pretty quickly and the same thing with Tamir Rice. Q Okay. 4 I don't think Tamir Rice was accused of going to A Normally, a significant event like this, 5 Walmart, stealing guns. I don't think he was on 5 it goes up the chain of command. It's probably much 6 Ring kit. So I don't know even know that it was the 6 sooner than that. It's probably within 15, 20 7 middle of the night. And so could somebody compare 7 minutes, but safe to say an hour. 8 them? Sure. But you -- you got to have the fa--- I Q And how did you become aware of it? Like 9 mean, anybody can do anything, but you got to have who contacted you? Do you recall? 10 the facts to be able to -- to compare them. You A No. Somebody would have called me, but I 10 11 can't just say this Tamir Rice because of a pellet don't know who. 12 gun and a teenager and getting shot quickly. 12 Q Did you have a work phone or a personal Q And it's your testimony that you believe 13 phone? 14 the officer handled it -- Saldivar handled the 14 A A personal phone. situation in an optimal way. 15 Q Okay. So they would have called your 15 16 MR. GILES: Object. Form. personal phone --17 MR. SELBE: Object to the form. 17 A Uh-huh. 18 THE DEPONENT: I've answered this like 18 O -- to -- to apprize you of the shoot---19 three times. Yes. 19 A Yes. 20 BY MR. DUBE: 20 Q -- the shooting? Okay. Do you use your 21 Q Thank you. Sometimes the reason I might 21 personal phone for work? 22 ask a question has nothing to do your answers. I 22 A Phone calls, yes. 23 didn't like the way I asked the question the first 23 Q Okay. How about text messages? 24 24 time, so I have to ask it the way I want to ask it. A Occasionally. 25 MR. GILES: Object to the sidebar comment. 25 Q Did you -- do you use your personal phone 107 109 MR. DUBE: I'm just trying to help him 1 for work in any other way? 1 out. So yeah --MR. GILES: Object to the sidebar. It --3 Do you have social media? Q 4 it -- ask the question. 5 BY MR. DUBE: Okay. What social media do you have? 6 Q All right. So on November 18, 2018, what 6 A Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat. -- what was your role? 7 A The interim or the acting chief. Q Okay. Did you use any of those social 8 Q So you had been there just for a short media to communicate with anyone regarding your work responsibilities? amount of time. Correct? 10 10 11 A In that capacity, yes. 11 A No. 12 12 And I'm going to refer to the incident Q Facebook Messenger, Instagram direct 13 where Officer Saldivar shot Mr. Schenk as the Schenk 13 messages or anything like that? 14 14 shooting. 15 15 Q Who had access to your phone number of --A Okay. 16 Q Is that fair? 16 for work purposes? 17 17 A Yes. A I -- I don't know. 18 Q Okay. When did you first become aware of 18 Q Was it po--- was it posted that this is 19 the Schenk shooting? the chief's number; in case of any emergencies, A Shortly after it happened. 20 20 please contact him? 21 Q Were you -- did you make it out to the 21 A It was probably in dispatch that way. 22 22 scene that night? 23 A I did. 23 A Not like on a bulletin board or something, Q Okay. So when you say shortly after it 24 but they had a -- they had a significant --24

25 significant event notification list or checklist to

25 happened, like what -- what does that mean? Or

Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 29 of 128 Page 29 Chief Joshua Bruegger January 5, 2024 NDT Assgn # 7 1056 Page 29 Case 4:22-cv-03571 110 112 1 make sure the right people got notified. Q Okay. All right. So I got sidetracked. 2 Q What telephone carrier do you use? 2 Let's go back. So you receive a call regarding your 3 Verizon. 3 phone -- on your personal phone about the shooting. 4 What -- what were you told? 4 Q Were you using Verizon back in 2018? 5 Α Yes. A That -- that there had been an officer-6 Okay. And 2021? 6 involved shooting. I don't know if I was told who, 7 7 the circumstances. I just know I was told there was Α Yes 8 Do you recall whether or not you had any a -- a shoo--- you know, a shooting. communications with anyone regarding the Ramirez Q What did you do at that time? 10 shooting or the Schenk shooting using your personal 10 A Took a shower and got dressed. phone? 11 Okay. What did you do next? 12 12 A Not that I recall. Drove out to scene. 13 You can't rule it out, though, correct? 13 O Okay. How far was the scene from your 14 Definitively, no. 14 house? 15 Do you still have the same phone now that 15 A Probably an hour or close to it. 16 you had in 2018? 16 Q What did you do in the hour drive? 17 17 A No. A Listened to the radio. 18 Q Okay. Do you still have access to the 18 Q Well, did you talk to anybody, any phone that you had in 2018? investigators or any detectives in that drive? 19 19 20 A No. 20 A Not that I recall. 21 21 Q Where is it? Q Okay. 22 A I have no idea. 22 I'm going out there, so ... 23 23 Q Did you dispose of it? Q So what happened once you arrived at the 24 scene? 24 A Traded it in to Verizon, I think. 25 Q Do you recall when? 25 A I would have gotten briefed by somebody on 111 113 A No. At least a year ago, but I don't 1 what at least they knew at that point in the 2 know. I don't know when. 2 investigation. Q Do you recall whether or not you had that 3 Q Do you recall what you were told? 3 4 phone at the time this lawsuit was filed? A At that point, I just remember it being A I have no idea. 5 pretty vague, that there was a traffic stop, the 6 Q Do you recall whether an--- whether anyone 6 driver had taken off running, was discarding 7 told you to save that phone? 7 narcotics as he was running. There was a physical 8 struggle between the driver and Officer Saldivar. A No. I know at some point there was a 9 request at--- well, I don't even know if it was this And at some point, Officer Saldivar discharged his 10 lawsuit. At one point, there was a request for text weapon, striking and killing the person. 11 messages and whatever. I just don't remember if it 11 Q How long you -- were you at the scene for? 12 was this case or something else, but whatever it 12 A A couple hours. I think it was the night 13 was, I know I didn't have anything responsive to before Thanksgiving or somewhere around there, I 14 what the subpoena was. think. But it was a couple of hours. Q How did you determine whether or not you 15 Q Were you there when Officer Saldivar 15 16 had anything responsive to those requests? 16 conducted his walk-through? 17 17 A Went through my phone. A If I was there, I was not present for it. 18 Q And that was the same phone that you had 18 Q You did not observe him conducting his 19 at the time of the Schenk shooting and the Ramirez 19 walk-through? 20 20 shooting? A That's correct.

A I -- I don't know. I went through what I

If they weren't on there, I didn't have

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22 had at the time and...

Q Okay.

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22 night?

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A Briefly.

Did you speak to Officer Saldivar that

What did you speak to him about?

1 that he had notified his family. And that was --

- 2 that was the extent of it.
- 3 Q Okay. Do you recall anything specific he
- 4 said to you?
- 5 A No. That he was good and he had already
- 6 contacted wife, girlfriend, somebody. But that was -
- 7 that was the extent of the conversation.
- 8 Q Where was he at the time you spoke to him?
- 9 A He was sitting in the passenger side of a
- 10 police car with another officer, I believe.
- 11 Q Was that standard operating procedure?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Okay. And describe that procedure for me.
- 14 A The -- after an officer's involved in a
- 15 shooting, take them from the immediate area, put
- 16 them in a -- a police vehicle with somebody else.
- 17 Sometimes it's their choosing. If they don't have
- 18 anybody in particular, we'll try to find somebody
- 19 whose maybe been in a similar circumstance, a
- 20 traumatic event like that. They are told don't
- 21 discuss the -- y'all can talk about anything else,
- 22 but don't discuss the event. And it's really there
- 23 just to -- so they are not sitting in a car by
- 24 themselves feeling alienated from everybody else.
- 25 Q Actually, back up. At what point --

1 you did at the scene that day once you arrived?

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- A I got there, I checked on Officer
- 3 Saldivar. I talked to Sergeant Skripka and
- 4 Detective Cooper. And then honestly, after that, I
- 5 just stood around shooting the breeze with people
- 6 that were out there.
- 7 Q And you just watched what was happening.
- 8 Correct?
- 9 A Actually, I really couldn't even see.
- 10 When it was dark, there were a whole bunch of cars
- 11 and my car was at the back. And so after my initial
- 12 talking to those folks, I was back closer to my car,
- 13 standing, talking for a while.
- 14 Q Okay. Do you recall the nature of your
- 15 conversation with -- with Sergeant Skripka?
  - A Yes. It was very brief at that time. It
- 17 was just the -- the -- the facts that, you know --
- 18 and really, it was what Officer Saldivar had told
- 19 them and kind of what they had -- had seen at that
- 20 point, that I guess Schenk had run a stop sign in
- 21 the area, traffic stop. Schenk got out of the car,
- 22 started walking off. And then I know they had told
- 23 me the route and they had -- they had walked it. I
- 24 didn't go on the route that Schenk had run from the
- 25 vehicle.

- 1 because you say you were informed there was an
- 2 officer-involved shooting. Correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. At what point were you told the
- 5 name of the officer who was involved?
- 6 A I'm not sure when.
- 7 Q Okay. Was it before you arrived at the
- 8 scene or at the time you arrived at the scene?
- 9 A I don't know the answer.
- 10 Q Who -- who -- who all did you make contact
- 11 with at the scene? You...
- 12 A I know I talked to Sergeant Skripka.
- 13 Q Uh-huh.
- 14 A I believe I briefly talked to Detective
- 15 Cooper.
- 16 Q Uh-huh.
- 17 A There were other people out there. I just
- 18 don't know. There was a lot of people out there. I
- 19 just don't know who else I talked to. I just know
- 20 those two specifically.
- 21 Q Okay. Were you there when the dash cam
- 22 video was brought out, when the dash cam and body
- 23 cam videos were brought out?
- 24 A I don't recall seeing them that night.
- 25 Q Can you, like, describe for us everything

- 1 Q Uh-huh.
  - 2 A And they had said there were some
  - 3 narcotics that Schenk had thrown --
  - 4 Q Uh-huh.
  - 5 A -- or discarded as he was running from
  - 6 Officer Saldivar. They said that there was a
  - 7 physical struggle. They said that his body camera
  - 8 had been ripped off in the struggle.
  - 9 Q Uh-huh.
  - 10 A And at that point, they hadn't viewed it,
  - 11 so they didn't know what was on it, but they said it
  - 12 was on the ground there --
  - 13 Q Uh-huh.
  - 14 A -- when I talked to them. They said it
  - 15 was on the ground. And that was -- that was all I
  - 16 knew.
  - 17 Q They said the body camera was on the
  - 18 ground at the time they arrived?
  - 19 A It was on the ground at some point, they
  - 20 told me. I -- I -- where it was at when they got --
  - 21 I don't know. But it was -- at some -- I know at
  - 22 some point, they had told me it was on the ground.
  - 23 Q Got it.
  - 24 A That it had gotten ripped off, because my
  - 25 question was, did he have his body camera on, or

- 1 something -- something along those lines. And the
- 2 response was, he did, but it was ripped off and on
- 3 the ground during part of the struggle.
- 4 Q Yeah.
- 5 A It's -- but where it was at when they got
- 6 there, the respon--- I -- I don't know. I just know
- 7 at some point, they had told me it was on the
- 8 ground.
- 9 Q Understood. So that's the conversation
- 10 with Sergeant Skripka?
- 11 A Yes
- 12 Q Anything else you remember about that
- 13 conversation?
- 14 A That was it at that point.
- 15 Q How about officer -- Detective Cooper?
- 16 A It was almost identical to that. I -- I
- 17 think he had walked the actual route that Schenk had
- 18 taken.
- 19 Q Uh-huh.
- 20 A And so I -- I think he described in a
- 21 little bit more detail maybe the -- the narcotics
- 22 that were disposed of. I don't remember what it
- 23 was, but --
- 24 Q Uh-huh.
- 25 A But he -- it was essentially the same

- 1 investigations, but sometimes you have to -- he's
- 2 not a detail guy sometimes. And so that was -- you

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- 3 know, you have to go back and get Cooper to --
- 4 writing was not his strong suit at times.
- 5 Q Uh-huh.
- 6 A And so...
- 7 Q Any other observations about his work?
- 8 A No. He -- he's a hard worker.
- Q Did you ever -- when he worked for you at
- 10 burglary and theft, did you ever disagree with con--
- 11 his conclusion on an investigation?
- 12 A Not that I recall.
- 13 Q Did you know him to do good work?
  - A He was a hard worker.
- 15 Q That's a different question. You can do -
- 16 I mean --

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- 17 A But he -- he --
- 18 Q -- you can do hard work --
- 19 A He wasn't a detailed --
- 20 Q You can --
- 21 A He wasn't a detailed guy at times. He
- 22 didn't like to write the report. He wanted to go
- 23 out and catch the bad guys, but lots of times would
- 24 -- didn't -- you know, you had to stay on him to --
- 25 to write the reports and to -- you know, but he --

- 1 account at that point.
- 2 Q Did you know Detective Cooper prior to
- 3 this?
- 4 A Did I know him?
- 5 Q Yes.
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q How did you know him?
- 8 A We've worked -- I mean, he started shortly
- 9 after I did.
- 10 Q Uh-huh.
- 11 A He's worked -- he's worked for me a couple
- 12 of times. I -- that --
- 13 Q So when and how did he work for you?
- 14 A He worked for me when I was over burglary
- 15 and theft, directly, at least.
- 16 Q Uh-huh.
- 17 A Probably as a chief. I mean, they all
- 18 work under you. But as far as --
- 19 Q Yeah. Well -- well, when I mean work for
- 20 you, I mean directly.
- 21 A Yeah. Burglary and theft I believe is the
- 22 only time that he worked directly for me.
- 23 Q Okay. What were your interactions like
- 24 when he worked for you?
- 25 A He's a hard worker. He -- he does good

- 1 he was a -- he was a hard worker and you just had to
  - 2 stay on top of him sometimes.
  - 3 Q What about his conclusions? Were they
  - 4 usually reasonable and -- and -- and -- and good?
    - MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
  - 6 THE DEPONENT: But investigators often --
  - 7 they don't usually draw a conclusion.
  - 8 MR. DUBE: Uh-huh.
  - 9 THE DEPONENT: I mean, burglary and theft,
- 10 it's -- you investigate it. Somebody identifies so
- 11 and so as the suspect. You get whatever evidence.
- 12 You present the charge. And so as far as presenting
- 13 a conclu--- or finding a clu--- I think when he
- 14 worked for me, that -- it's a -- it's a different
- 15 scenario than different -- other types of
- 16 investigations.
- 17 BY MR. DUBE:
- 18 Q Were -- were there any scenarios where he
- 19 had to try to figure out, you know, who stole what
- 20 or who committed the burglary?
- 21 A All the time.
- 22 Q Okay. Was he often right or wrong? Which
- 23 one? Was he often right in his conclusions?
- 24 A I -- I don't know of him being wrong.
- 25 Q Okay. Do -- so you know the -- so --



1 okay, at the time he worked for you, there were

2 never any instances where he drew the conclusion,

- 3 assumed the -- the wrong person committed the crime?
  - A Not that I'm aware of.
- 5 Q So now we're back at the scene. You've --
- 6 so you said a couple occasions. Did he work for --
- 7 did Detective Cooper work for you on any other
- 8 occasion besides burglary and theft?
- 9 A I think when I was on patrol as a patrol
- 10 sergeant.
- 11 Q Okay.
- 12 A Twenty years ago, maybe.
- 13 Q Okay.
- 14 A And then his ATF role, I created the --
- 15 that -- that assignment, not for him, but created
- 16 the assignment and he got picked for it over at ATF.
- 17 And because of my relationship with the special
- 18 agent in charge of ATF, I talked to Cooper maybe
- 19 more than I would some other officers.
- 20 Q Uh-huh.
- 21 A But again, he -- still being assigned to
- 22 A--- ATF still had a sergeant, still had a
- 23 lieutenant and an assistant chief. But I would see
- 24 him in the hallway and he would tell me what's going
- 25 on over at ATF.

- 1 wasn't there when all that -- no.
  - Q Were you informed at -- at the scene where

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- 3 the -- where Mr. Schenk had been shot?
- 4 A I don't recall, because whatever way he
- 5 was laying, I know they couldn't see one side. I do
- 6 remember that. But I don't -- I don't -- I don't
- 7 remember if he was face up, face down. I -- I --
- 8 like I said, all I could see is a body in the
- 9 distance. It was dark --
- 10 Q But --
- 11 A -- and wet and I couldn't see.
- 12 Q It was raining that night. Correct?
- 13 A Yes
- 14 Q Okay. But you said you spoke to Sergeant
- 15 Skripka and you spoke to Detective Cooper.
- 16 A Yes
- 17 Q Correct? And they gave you a rundown of
- 18 what happened. Correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Okay. And do you know whether or not they
- 21 told you where on his body Mr. Schenk had wounds
- 22 from the shooting that night?
- 23 A At that night, I don't recall them telling
- 24 me. It's not to say they didn't, but I don't recall
- 25 them telling me that night.

- 1 Q Okay. So who had regular interactions
- 2 with him while he was at ATF?
- 3 A Regular once a month, maybe, in the
- 4 hallway.
- 5 Q When was the ATF task force created?
- 6 A Sometimes during my time as chief. But I
- 7 don't -- it's been a couple of years. I --
- 8 Q Okay. So -- so this would have been
- 9 before or after the Schenk and Ramirez --
- 10 A After. After.
- 11 Q So now we're back at the scene. Did you -
- 12 did you observe the body cam or dash cam video at
- 13 the scene?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q When did you decide to leave the scene?
- 16 A Whenever we ran out of things to talk
- 17 about. I -- I don't know. I mean, it -- it -- I --
- 18 I was there probably two hours, it seemed like, and
- 19 then I left.
- 20 Q Were you there when they discarded the
- 21 body -- or removed the body from the scene?
- 22 A I don't know. If I was, I wasn't over
- 23 there. I never even -- I saw his body from a
- 24 distance in the field, but I never -- never got up
- 25 close to it or anything. And so I wasn't -- I

- 1 Q Fair enough. I assume after you left the
  - 2 scene, you went home?
  - 3 A Yes.
  - 4 Q Okay. What's the next thing you recall,
  - 5 you know, doing or hearing in connection to the
  - 6 investigation?
  - 7 A At some point, I want to say it was the
  - 8 following week, after Thanksgiving, after the
  - 9 weekend, one of my assistant chiefs, Rick Styron,
  - 10 came to me and said -- or asked if I could meet with
  - 11 the investigators Cooper and Skripka because they
  - 12 wanted to run the Schenk shooting down to me, at
  - 13 least what they knew at that point.
  - 14 Q Okay. So the following week, so after the
  - 15 Thanksgiving holiday?
  - 16 A Yes.
  - 17 Q Okay. You were approached and said that
  - 18 Detective Cooper and Sergeant Skripka wanted to
  - 19 discuss the shooting with you?
  - 20 A Yes.
  - 21 Q Okay. Before Styron came to you and --
    - 2 and made that request, do you recall anything --
  - 23 hearing anything about the investigation or
  - 24 participating in any way in that investigation
  - 25 during that time?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q What occurred after Chief Styron --
- 3 Assistant Chief Styron approached you to discuss the
- 4 fact that Cooper and Skripka wanted to discuss the
- 5 Schenk shooting with you?
- 6 A At some point that day, we went down to
- 7 the conference room in detectives, and it was
- 8 myself, Assistant Chief Styron, Detective Cooper,
- 9 Sergeant Skripka. I think there were others there,
- 10 but I don't know who the others were. I just seem
- 11 to remember more people being in the room.
- 12 Q Okay. So I was taking notes, but I didn't
- 13 get all the names. So who are --
- 14 A Cooper, Skripka.
- 15 Q Uh-huh.
- 16 A Styron.
- 17 Q Uh-huh.
- 18 A Myself.
- 19 Q Uh-huh.
- 20 A And I don't know who else. I -- I recall
- 21 there being other people in there because it wasn't
- 22 just the four of us, but I don't remember who else.
- 23 Q Lieutenant Warnke, was he there?
- 24 A Yes. He was the lieutenant over
- 25 investigations, yes.

- 1 then moved on to the next part.
- 2 Q Understood, Okay.
- 3 A So after the body cam -- or the -- excuse
- 4 me, the dash cam from the car, then they went to the
- 5 body cam. And at some point, I don't remember if it
- 6 was before they played it, played it, stopped it,
- 7 played it and then told me, at some point, they told
- 8 me what their theory was on what they thought had
- 9 taken place out there.
- 10 Q Okay. And what was that theory?
  - A That there was a physical struggle between
- 12 Officer Saldivar and Schenk. During that struggle,
- 13 Officer Saldivar's body camera came off. It was on
- 14 the ground facing straight up. They -- you know, I
- 15 -- I -- again, I don't remember the order of it, but
- 16 they told me you could tell Rigo was winded, you
- 17 know, that there -- he -- you know, clearly some
- 18 exertion. Then somewhere in there, they discussed,
- 19 you know, where the wounds were on the body.
- 20 Q Uh-huh.
- 21 A And then a theor--- they had a -- you
- 22 know, what they believed happened. And then they
- 23 explained it. I believe they even acted it out a
- 24 little bit. And then we watched the video a bunch.
- 25 I don't know how many times, but it was a bunch.

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- 1 Q Lieutenant Hamilton -- or Sergeant
- 2 Hamilton, was he there?
- 3 A I don't recall.
- 4 Q Okay. So you were in the conference room
- 5 with Cooper, Skripka, and the other individuals who
- 6 were there.
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q What -- what happened at that time?
- 9 A Somebody, I don't know if it was Cooper or
- 10 Skripka or -- I think it was kind of both of them
- 11 back and forth, giving a rundown what they knew or,
- 12 you know, their theory on what had taken place based
- 13 on what they had at that point.
- 14 Q What do you recall what they said?
- 15 A I mean, it was basically the same
- 16 beginning. And by beginning, I mean the traffic
- 17 stop. They played the video and saw Schenk running,
- 18 watched the dash cam until he got out of sight.
- 19 Q Let's pause for a second. Did they give
- 20 you a rundown of what occurred before or after they
- 21 played the video or did it -- did -- did they do it
- 22 simultaneously?
- 23 A They were doing it simultaneously is what
- 24 my recollection was. They would tell me and then it
- 25 was let's watch -- you know, watch the video, and

- 1 Q Okay. We got to slow it down a little
  - 2 bit. You said they explained where the wounds were?
  - 3 A Yes.
  - 4 Q Okay. Where were the wounds?
    - A I believe one was in the chest, kind of to
  - 6 Schenk's left of the midline. I believe.
    - Q Okay.
  - 8 A In the front. And then there were two in
  - 9 the lower back, I believe, at an upward trajectory,
  - 10 if I recall correctly.
  - 11 Q So there were two shots in the back?
  - 12 A Yes.
  - 13 Q Okay. And you said the one on the side
  - 14 was in the -- was the front part of the --
  - 15 A That was my recollection, was it was front
  - 16 toward the side was...
  - 17 Q Okay. Do you recall whether or not there
  - 18 was an exit wound and an entrance wound in the area?
  - 19 A I don't recall.
  - 20 Q Okay. Do you remember tell--- them
  - 21 telling you where the entrance wound on the side
  - 22 was?

- 23 A No.
  - Q Okay. Do you recall whether they told you
- 25 the two wounds in the back, were they entrance

1 wounds or exit wounds?

- 2 A They were entrance.
- 3 Q Okay. They told you there were entrance
- 4 wounds in Schenk's back. Correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Did that concern you?
- 7 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 8 THE DEPONENT: In and of themselves, not
- 9 necessarily, no. It could be -- there could be a
- 10 lot of explanations for it, so...
- 11 BY MR. DUBE:
- 12 Q Okay. So what was their theory -- you
- 13 said they explained their theory of what occurred to
- 14 you. Correct?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q What was -- what was that theory?
- 17 A There was a physical altercation between
- 18 Officer Saldivar and Schenk. And at some point,19 Schenk turned and was crawling away and Officer
- 20 Saldivar shot the two rounds -- or the three rounds.
- 21 Q So --
- 22 A But initially, they -- because the
- 23 question I had was the -- the wound to the front, at
- 24 least my recollection during this conversation, was
- 25 that it was -- they believed at that time at least

1 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

2 THE DEPONENT: Yes.

3 BY MR. DUBE:

- Q Did they tell you whether or not they
- 5 believed the shooting was justified or unjustified?
- 6 A I don't recall them using -- they -- it
- 7 was more here's what happened. They weren't drawing

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- 8 a conclusion. It was here's what we think happened.
- 9 And they didn't say this, but it was kind of
- 10 presented and you draw your own conclusion, but
- 11 here's what we think happened.
- 12 Q Do you recall whether or not they informed
- 13 you that the force used was excessive during that
- 14 meeting?
- 15 A I do not recall that.
- 16 Q And you have a specific recollection of
- 17 them telling you that Mr. Schenk was shot in the
- 18 front first?
- 19 A Yes, because their theory was he was
- 20 turning when the first shot was fired. And then as
- 21 he was crawling away, that the sub--- subsequent
- 22 shots occurred. And so that was how it happened
- 23 because he was turning and that's how he got hit on
- 24 the side as he was turning, and then as he was
- 25 crawling away, the two in the back.

- 1 that it was toward -- the -- there was an entrance
- 2 wound on the front or the side. And so the -- the
- 3 theory was that the first round hit him on the -- on
- 4 the side in the front and then he turned and was
- 5 crawling away and he fired the other two rounds was
- 6 the -- the theory that day.
- 7 Q Do you recall that's what they told you
- 8 that day?
- 9 A That day, yes.
- 10 Q Do you recall them telling you that
- 11 officer -- I mean, that Mr. Schenk was his -- on his
- 12 hands and knees at the time he was shot?
- 13 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.
- 14 TEH DEPONENT: I know they bel--- believed
- 15 that for the two rounds in the back, at least.
- 16 BY MR. DUBE:
- 17 Q You said they play acted what occurred.
- 18 Correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Okay. Did they play act Mr. Schenk being
- 21 on his hands and knees at the time he was shot?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q They demonstrated to you that Schenk was
- 24 on his hands and knees at the time Officer Saldivar
- 25 shot two other rounds?

- 1 Q Did it make a difference to you whether or
  - 2 not the shots in the back occurred after he was shot
  - 3 in the front?
  - 4 A Did it make a difference? Make a
  - 5 difference how?
  - 6 Q In terms of the way you evaluated the --
  - 7 the case.
  - 8 A I think you got to go back to the totality
  - 9 of all of it. Again, wounds in the back, I mean,
  - 10 there could be reasonable, legitimate explanation
  - 11 for it. So at -- at this point, I wasn't -- I
  - 12 wasn't prepared to draw a conclusion. The
  - 13 investigation was still ongoing.
  - 14 Q What legitimate reasons could be -- there
  - 15 be for an officer to shoot a person in the back?
  - 16 A So if I make the decision -- if I identify
  - 17 you as a threat and I make the decision to shoot
  - 18 you, that message has to go from my brain to my hand
  - 19 to -- to fire. And if as I pull my gun and start to
  - 20 fire, you're turning, I can still be in the process
  - 21 of firing and it -- there's -- I mean, it happens
  - 22 quick, but there's a time from the time I tell my
  - 23 brain to stop 'til I stop pulling the trigger. So24 you can still be turning while I can still be
  - 25 shooting. So there -- there's -- I mean, it's...

1 Q So I guess I'll better try to say what I

2 think you said. There could be a reasonable

3 explanation as to how a suspect was -- was shot in

4 the back. Correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q But is it also -- would it also be

7 reasonable for an officer to -- to intentionally

8 shoot someone in the back?

9 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

10 THE DEPONENT: I -- it depends on the

11 circumstances. If you're running away and have a

12 gun, you know, over the shoulder pointed at me and I

13 shoot you in the back, that's -- you know, that's --

14 that's a scenario. I mean, there's -- that's not

15 the only one, but that's a scenario. So I don't --

16 you know.

17 BY MR. DUBE:

18 Q Would that be a legitimate reason for an

19 officer to shoot an individual who is on his hands

20 and knees crawling away from him?

21 A Depends on the circumstances, I guess.

22 Q What circumstances would it be justified

23 for an officer to shoot individ--- an individual on

24 his hands and knees crawling away from him?

25 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

1 Schenk scenario, based on at least the evidence. I

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2 don't have any -- there's no evidence -- there's

3 theories, but there is no evidence to support a

4 theory other than Officer Saldivar's.

5 Q Uh-huh. So you think if there was a --

6 you agree that there's no evidence that Mr. Schenk

7 was armed. Correct?

B A Correct.

Q And -- and you think that if Officer

10 Saldivar shot Mr. Schenk in the back while he was

11 crawling away from him, that would have been

12 justified?

13 MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

14 THE DEPONENT: That's not what happened

15 here, though.

16 BY MR. DUBE:

17 Q I -- I -- we'll get to what happened

18 because we have videos and everything else as to

19 what happened.

20 A Well, I know. But you're saying that

21 Schenk --

22 Q No, I --

23 A -- crawling away, shot in the back, could

24 it ever be --

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25 Q So -- okay, so let's -- let's -- let's

THE DEPONENT: It -- it -- I mean, if you

2 had a gun and you're crawling away, you still could

3 -- still could shoot. That -- that would be one.

4 The scenario I gave you of, you know, as I begin

5 shooting you, at the same time, you see the gun, you

6 know, and -- and -- you know, a lot of people -- I'm

7 not going to say everybody, but a lot of people, if

8 you shoot a gun at them, their first response, you

9 know, is -- is to turn.

10 And so if, you know, I begin to shoot and

11 you're turning and going away, I could still be

12 shooting. And so that doesn't necessarily -- you

13 know, if that first round -- you know, the first

14 shot was -- you know, was justified, the subsequent

15 ones potentially could. I mean, the window doesn't

16 stay open forever, but there could be a time period

17 after that, again.

18 BY MR. DUBE:

25

9 Q I believe you said there could be

20 circumstance where it's reasonable for officers to

21 shoot somebody in the back if they had a weapon.

22 Are there any scenarios in which it would be

23 reasonable for an officer to shoot an individual in

24 the back crawling away when they were unarmed?

A I think this scenario right here, in the

1 come at it this way. Detective Cooper and Officer -

2 - and Sergeant Skripka, right, informed you it was

3 their belief that Mr. Schenk was on his hands and

4 knees and crawling away when Officer Saldivar shot

5 and fired two rounds in his back.

6 A But we're leaving out the first round.

Q Well, we'll get -- we'll get there, trust

8 me.

7

9 A I know, but we've got to tell the stor---

10 I mean, I can't --

11 Q Okay.

12 A You're asking me to draw a conclusion,

13 leaving out a key important piece of it, which is

14 the first round.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And I can't ignore that and just address

17 these. That's not what happened here.

18 Q Okay. So if I were to tell you that

19 Detective Cooper was deposed --

20 A Yes.

21 Q -- and he stated that he never told you

22 that the first round came while Mr. Schenk was

23 standing up, would you have reason to disagree with

24 that?

25 A Yes.

Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 36 of 128 Page 36 Of 128 Page 36 Case 4:22-cv-03571 138 140 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 1 frame? 2 BY MR. DUBE: A I don't recall. It's not to say they Q And if he stated that there were five 3 didn't. I -- I don't recall. I just remember 4 watching it a bunch and I know it was stopped at 4 rounds there, based on the number of shell casings 5 that were found, would you have any reason to several times during the... 6 disagree with that? Q Did you have access to the video yourself? 7 A I -- I don't recall how many there were. Yes. 8 I don't disagree with it, but I don't -- I don't 8 Q Okay. Did you ever watch it? 9 Α Q Okay. And if he testified that --10 Q Did you ever pause it? 10 11 actually even demonstrated the five puffs of smokes 11 Α 12 exiting Officer Saldivar's gun at the time of 12 Did you ever go frame by frame? O 13 shooting and Mr. Schenk was on the ground, would you 13 Α 14 have any reason to disagree with that? 14 Q Okay. In all the times you saw it, is it 15 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 15 your testimony that even going frame by frame, you 16 THE DEPONENT: Do I have a reason to could not tell that Mr. Schenk was on his hands and knees during the video? 17 disagree? I -- I don't know where Mr. Schenk was. 17 18 They profess that the video shows where Mr. Schenk 18 A I never saw that on the video. 19 19 is. I've watched that video countless times and I -Q What screen were you guys watching it on 20 - I don't agree with -- I don't agree that the video 20 that day? 21 demonstrates that. 21 A I don't remember if it was a T.V. or a 22 BY MR. DUBE: 22 drop-down screen from the ceiling through a 23 Q Okay. So I guess that's -- let's pause projector 'cause there's both in that room. But I -24 there for a second. What did you see in the video? 24 - I don't remember. 25 A It's been awhile since I've seen it, but 25 Q And were Sergeant Skripka and Detective 139 141 1 there was the physical struggle. I remember more 1 Cooper narrating what they saw as you watched the 2 than anything hearing the physical struggle because 2 video? 3 A Yes. 3 the body camera goes down pretty quick. And you 4 continue to hear it. And at some point -- I know Q Okay. Was there ever a point in when they 5 you hear the -- the gunshots. But after that, it's -5 stopped the video and says here is Schenk on his 6 hands and knees? 6 - it's various shades of a black screen. That --7 that's what I recall seeing on it. I -- I -- I A Yes. 8 do --Q Okay. And it's your testimony that -- so 9 Q Do you --9 how did they do that? Did they point out a -- a --10 a shading or a figure or anything? -- remember the -- the puffs of smoke. 10 11 Q Uh-huh. A I'm honestly not sure what they pointed 12 out. They pointed to a section of the screen and 12 A But I don't remember -- I -- well, not 13 said, here it is, and myself and Lieutenant Styron 13 that I don't remember. I never saw Schenk on the 14 ground, crawling away or anything else that 14 both --15 Detective Cooper and Sergeant Skripka believe is on 15 Q Chief Styron. 16 the screen. 16 A Yeah, Chief Styron -- did not come to the 17 Q So let's just set the scene. So they are 17 same conclusion. 18 showing you the videos. Correct? 18 Q Assistant Chief Styron. A Correct. 19 Assistant Chief Styron did not come to 19 20 20 same conclusion. Q Did they slow it down for you? 21 A I don't remember if they slowed it down or 21 Q So they paused the video. They said, hey,

23

24

25

A Correct.

A Correct.

22 this is where Schenk is on his hands and knees.

Q And you did not see what they saw.

22 we just watched it a bunch. I don't remember.

A I be--- I believe they paused it.

Q Okay. Do you recall if they went frame by

Q All right.

23

24

Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 37 of 128 Page 37 Of 128 Page 37 Case 4:22-cv-03571 142 144 Q Did you say anything to that effect? MR. DUBE: Okay. I think it's a good --A That -- yes, I said, I don't see what 2 2 that's a good time to break for lunch. 3 you're seeing. Yes. VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. The time is Q Okay. Did you ask for any further 12:23 and we're off the record. 5 explanation from them? 5 (Whereupon, a break was taken from the proceedings.) A No, because we were -- not at an impasse, VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time it now 1:13 7 but they were convinced they saw it. Chief Sti---8 Assistant Chief Styron and I didn't see what they and we're back on the record. 9 were seeing. And it was y'all keep investigating BY MR. DUBE: 10 and that was -- yeah, we'll go from there. 10 Q Good afternoon, sir. How are you? Q And then, again, you testified that they 11 Α 12 were on their hands and knees to demonstrate to you 12 O Good lunch break? 13 what -- what they believe occurred in the video? 13 Α It was quick. Good. A Yes. 14 14 I apologize for that. We're trying --15 Okay. Did they mention to you there was 15 A No, I'm good now. 16 any discrepancies between what Officer Saldivar 16 Q We're both trying to catch a flight. Any 17 stated and what they were observing in -- in the 17 reason that you can't tell -- give truthful 18 video? 18 testimony this afternoon like you did this -- this 19 morning? 19 A I don't recall. I don't recall either 20 way. So I'm not sure. 20 A No. 21 21 Q So you state -- you told them you did not Okay. Are you ready proceed? 22 see what they saw. Correct? 22 23 23 Q Okay. Do you recall being deposed in the A Correct. 24 Schenk case? 24 Q What happened after that? 25 A Some point, I went and watched the video 25 A Yes. 143 145 1 in my office, both on the computer and the T.V. Q And if I told you that deposition occurred 2 there. Turned the lights out. I slowed it down 2 on July 15th, 2021, would you have any reason to 3 object to that? 3 frame by frame. Everything that -- you know, try to 4 see what they were saying they saw. 5 Q And the video is dark. Correct? Q Okay. Does that score with your memory 6 A Yes. 6 that's when it occurred? 7 Q Okay. Did you attempt to have the video A I -- I don't know when it occurred. I know 8 enhanced? 8 it was a couple of years ago, but yes. 9 A No. Q And do you recall at that time being asked Q Okay. Was there any reason -- anything 10 the position Nathan and -- was in when Officer 10 11 preventing you from doing that? 11 Saldivar first fired his shots? 12 A No. 12 A I don't recall. No. 13 Ω Did you have the resources to do that? 13 Q Okay. But it's your testimony now that We don't have resources internally to do 14 Detective Cooper and Sergeant Skripka told you that 14 15 Mr. Schenk was standing at the time the shots were 15 that. 16 Q Okay. Was there anything stopping you 16 first fired? 17 from hiring a -- a -- you know, a reconstructionist 17 A I don't remember where they said he was 18 expert or a video enhance--- a video enhancer? 18 when he -- they first fired. I just know that at 19 A We could have hired somebody, yes. some point, they said he was crawling away when

- 20 Q Was it concerning to you that Detective 21 Cooper and Sergeant Skripka believe that Officer 22 Saldivar had shot Mr. Schenk while he was on his 23 hands and knees? 24 A Concerned? No. 25 Q Okay.
- 20 shots were fired. But I don't... 21 Q Okay. 22 MR. DUBE: Can you please pull up exhibit 23 34, please, at page 44? 24 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Absolutely. Just one 25 moment, please. And which page would you like, sir,

146 148 1 again? A Okay. And did they point out on the video 2 MR. DUBE: Forty-four. 2 recording when -- what they saw that caused them to EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Okay. 3 3 have that perception when viewing the video MR. DUBE: Okay. Can you give me video 4 recording? Yes. 4 5 control, please. Or could you highlight for me Q All right. And you would agree with me lines 16 through 24? 6 that your memory in July 2021 as to that meeting is 7 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Sorry, sir, it's not 7 fresher back at that time than it is currently? 8 allowing me to highlight right now. I apologize. A It was closer to the time of the event. MR. DUBE: No worries. Okay. That's okay. Q So I guess if I asked you -- did Detective 10 All right. I move exhibit 34 into evidence. Any 10 Cooper and Sergeant Skripka tell you that Nathan was objection? You're on mute, Norman. on his hands and knees at the time the shots first 12 MR. GILES: I -- I -- I don't object 12 began during that meeting? 13 A After reviewing this, yes. 13 to you using it in the deposition. I -- I don't 14 agree to its admission into evidence. 14 Q Did they tell you that Nathan was standing 15 MR. SELBE: Yeah. And I -- the same 15 up when the first shots began? 16 thing, I don't -- I don't agree with it being into 16 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 17 evidence anywhere other than in the deposition, but 17 THE DEPONENT: I don't recall because I 18 that doesn't even -- that doesn't even -- it's not 18 know there was a -- re--- Officer Saldivar's -- you 19 inconsistent with the witness' testimony anyway. 19 know, at some point, he was facing him, but I don't 20 MR. DUBE: Thank you for the speaking 20 -- I don't recall the --21 BY MR. DUBE: 21 objection. I just asked if you have any objections. 22 MR. SELBE: Oh, no, I'm -- I'm giving you 22 Q I'm asking you --23 a response to the question you asked me. I'm 23 A -- breakdown of --24 24 telling you what the evidentiary basis is for my Q I'm asking you what Detective Cooper and 25 response. It's not a speaking objection. 25 Sergeant Skripka told you. Same question I asked 147 149 MR. DUBE: Okay. Thank you. 1 1 before. 2 MR. SELBE: Sure. MR. GILES: Objection. Form. (Plaintiff's exhibit 34 referenced for 3 BY MR. DUBE: 3 4 identification.) Q Did they tell you at that meeting that 5 BY MR. DUBE: 5 Nathan was standing up at the time that the shots 6 Q Could you read lines 16 through 24, first began? 7 7 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. THE DEPONENT: I don't know at what point A Okay. And did either Detective Cooper or 9 Sergeant Skripka say at that meeting that it -- I don't know the answer to that. 10 appeared to them that Nathan was on his hands and 10 MR. DUBE: All right. We can take the 11 knees at the time the shots began? The answer, they 11 exhibit off the screen, sir, Vincent. 12 BY MR. DUBE: 12 thought that to be the case, yes. 13 Q And that's -- and that's your answer. 13 Q And you testified, sir, that you had the 14 Correct? 14 capability to -- well, let me ask you, what about 15 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 15 the video made it hard for you to perceive what 16 THE DEPONENT: Yes. 16 occurred? 17 BY MR. DUBE: 17 A It was dark. 18 Q Okay. That -- answer the question, did 18 Q And anything else? 19 either Detective Cooper or Sergeant Skripka say in 19 I mean, it was dark and grainy. That --Α 20 the meeting that it appeared to them that Nathan was 20 Q Okay. 21 on his hands and knees at the time the shots began. 21 That pretty much sums it up. 22 And your answer to that was yes. Correct? 22 Okay. And you testified that you had the 23 A Yes. 23 capability to ask for it to be enhanced in -- in 24 Q Okay. Can you read the next four lines 24 some way, shape or form? 25 25 through 24? A Yes, but in the past when we've done it,

150 152 1 it's never been of any value, so... 1 back a little bit to the position I wanted to pause Q Uh-huh. And but did you -- did your --3 did you have a -- you had investigators. Correct? (Whereupon, a video was played.)

A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Do you know if they had ever

6 enhanced video in -- you know, in past crimes or --

7 or shootings or anything of that sort?

A I know they've made attempts and you get

9 back a more pixilated image of what it was before.

10 It's not been beneficial.

Q So it's your testimony that it's never

12 been beneficial, to your knowledge, to enhance the

13 video?

18

14 A My experience? No.

15 Q Did you speak to any -- is there a

16 particular unit that handles those enhancements and

17 -- and rec--- reenactments and recreations?

A Enhancements, recreations?

19 Q Yes, of videos. Enhan--- so let me ask

20 the question simpler. Is there a particular unit

21 within the police department that handles

22 enhancements of video?

23 A No. We'd have to go to an outside agency.

Q Gotcha. Has that been done by your police 24

25 department in the past?

4 BY MR. DUBE:

Q This is Officer Saldivar effectuating the

traffic stop, correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And as we see, shortly after, Mr.

Schenk begins running.

10 A Correct.

11 Q Okay. And are you able to observe all of

12 that in the video, correct?

13

14

23

151

Q Okay. And Mis--- and Officer Saldivar

15 cha--- eventually chases him down. Correct?

16

17 Q Okay. And I think right when I tried to

pause it, he was being tased correct? Mr. Schenk was

being tased by Officer Saldivar?

20 A He attempted to tase him, yes.

21 Q Okay.

22 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

Q And this is Mr. Schenk running away?

24 A Yes.

25 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

Gone to an outside agency?

2 Q Yes.

3 A Yes.

Q And it's your testimony that upon viewing

5 the video and upon viewing what Skripka and Cooper

6 told you, you could not discern what was occurring

on the screen?

8 A That's correct.

9 MR. DUBE: Can you please play exhibit 17,

10 please.

11 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Absolutely. Just one

12 moment, please.

13 BY MR. DUBE:

Q Just in the interest of saving time, I'm 14

15 going to skip ahead to about three minutes when --

16 A Okay.

17 Q Is that okay?

18 A Yes.

19 MR. DUBE: Can I get -- perfect. You can

skip ahead to five minutes. Okay. Perfect. 20

21 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

22 MR. DUBE: Can you pause, please? Can you

23 pause, please? Vincent. Can he hear me? Vincent,

24 can you pause, please? And can you give me, I

25 guess, control? Thank you. Okay. I'm going to go

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Q And this is the moment that he's tasing -or trying to tase him. Correct?

A Yes. 3

(Whereupon, a video was played.)

5 BY MR. DUBE:

Q The first attempt to tase did not work?

7

Q And he still kept running?

A Correct.

10 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

11 BY MR. DUBE:

12 Q And at that moment at 5:58 in the video,

13 he is attempting to tase him again. Correct?

14 A Correct.

15 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

16 BY MR. DUBE:

Q And what can you tell -- what happens at 17

18 that moment?

19 A It appears that Schenk is on his back and

20 Officer Saldivar is over him.

21 Q Okay. So I'm just going to play it now

22 through the shooting.

23 A Okay.

Q And then I'm going to ask you what you see

25 after I pause it. Okay?



154 156 1 it one more time. 1 Okay. 2 Q And then I will go back and replay it (Whereupon, a video was played.) 3 again. 3 BY MR. DUBE: Q Okay. Do you see anything just now? 4 A Okay. 5 Q Okay. A I saw the screen discoloration change over (Whereupon, a video was played.) 7 BY MR. DUBE: Q Okay. Did you see a puff of smoke? 8 Q What are we observing? What did you just A I didn't. observe up -- up -- up to this moment? Q Okay. I'm going to play it again. Tell me A I'm not sure. Black screen. You can hear 10 if you see it this time. Tell me if you see any 10 11 -- you can hear exertion. Sounds like a struggle is puffs of smokes or any sparks at the time that this 12 what it sounds like. That's all I can tell you. 12 is being shown. Q Okay. And at this point that we've paused 13 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 14 it, what can you observe? 14 THE DEPONENT: There's one. 15 A It looks like Officer Saldivar on the --15 BY MR. DUBE: 16 my right side of the screen, the upper right corner. 16 Q You saw it? Q Okay. And do you see Mr. Schenk at any 17 A Yeah. 17 Q What -- what did you see? 18 point? 18 19 A Right now? 19 A Looked like a puff of smoke and like a 20 Q Yes. 20 spark like consistent with gun fire. 21 A No. 21 Q Consistent with gun fire? 22 Q Okay. Do you have an opinion as to where 22 A Yeah. 23 he is in this video based on where Officer Saldivar 23 Q And did you see what was the person who 24 is? 24 was shooting was shooting at? 25 A Maybe on the ground in front of him. 25 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 155 157 What -- what are you basing that opinion THE DEPONENT: No. 1 2 2 BY MR. DUBE: on? Q Okay. All right. I'm going to play it 3 A Officer Saldivar's position. Q I'm going to play again. 4 again and you can -- and tell me -- and actually, 5 5 I'll play it a little bit further. Who is that A Okay. 6 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 6 coming back on screen as -- as we -- see this? 7 BY MR. DUBE: A That looks like Officer Saldivar. Q And if there's any point you want me to Q Yeah. And you -- and what -- okay. I'm 9 stop, if you maybe see and there's something you 9 going to play it and you tell me what you see him 10 doing. 10 observe, please let me know as well. 11 A Okay. 11 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 12 12 BY MR. DUBE: (Whereupon, a video was played.) THE DEPONENT: There's a car that drove Q What do you -- what do you think he did --13 13 14 just did right there? 14 by. 15 BY MR. DUBE: 15 A I'm not sure. 16 Q Did you see anything prior to the car 16 MR. GILES: Objection. 17 driving by? 17 BY MR. DUBE: 18 A Looked like a shadow on the lower left Q Okay. I'll play -- I'll go back to 6:45, 19 and this time, please watch to see whether or not 19 corner, but --20 you can see what it is that the person who is 20 Q So you saw a shadow on the lower left 21 corner? 21 shooting is shooting at. Okay? 22 22 A Well, shadow might be misleading. Kind of (Whereupon, a video was played.) 23 the -- the color changes of the screen. I -- I don't 23 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 24 know what it is, but... 24 MR. DUBE: What's the basis of that 25 25 objection? Norman? Q I'm going to go back to 6:45 again, play

158 160 MR. GILES: I said Objection. Form. (Whereupon, a video was played.) 1 2 BY MR. DUBE: 2 MR. DUBE: On what basis? 3 MR. GILES: You're asking what the guy's Q What, if anything, have you seen so far? shooting at. He'd have to speculate for that. A Nothing, really. 4 5 MR. DUBE: Okay. 5 Q Okay. Well, see did Officer Saldivar. MR. GILES: He doesn't know what the guy's A I saw Officer Saldivar on the right side 7 shooting at. 7 of it and then it -- somebody moved it, bumped it, 8 something because it looks like it shifted the 8 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 9 BY MR. DUBE: position. But... Q Are you able to tell from that view what Q Okay. All right. Please pay attention to 10 Officer Saldivar is shooting at? 11 the left side of the screen, okay, as we play it 12 12 this time. A No, I can't see anything. Q Okay. All right. Now, what position is 13 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 13 14 the camera at this point? Can you tell? 14 BY MR. DUBE: 15 A It appears to be on the ground at an 15 Q What did you see -- observe? 16 angle. 16 A The colors change over there on that side, 17 but that's all I can tell you. 17 Q Uh-huh. And does that make it difficult 18 for you to discern what's going on? 18 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 19 BY MR. DUBE: A The fact that it's dark is what makes it 19 20 difficult to discern what's going on. 20 Q Okay. What, if anything, did you observe? 21 21 Q Understood. All right. I'll go back to A Again, the colors shift and there's a car 22 driving by. 22 6:45 again. That's a good marker. And I'll -- this 23 time, I'll play it -- oh, and you stated that when 23 Q Did you see a puff of smoke? 24 24 Officer Skrick--- Sergeant Skripka and Detective A Over in the lower left corner? That's 25 Cooper played the video, they played it multiple 25 where I was paying attention. That's where you told 159 161 1 time for you. Correct? 1 me to watch. Q Okay. All right. We'll play it again. 3 And so I'm not telling you to look at any particular 3 Okay. And they slowed it down at well? A Yes -- I don't know about slow down. I area. Just look at it and tell me what you see. 5 remember them pausing it. (Whereupon, a video was played.) 6 Q Okay. 6 THE DEPONENT: Something on the top right, 7 A But I can't tell you definitively whether 7 but I... they did or they didn't slow it down. 8 (Whereupon, a video was played.) Q And you watched it at your desk. Correct? 9 THE DEPONENT: There's smoke around the 10 A Yes. 10 light. 11 Q And you testified you -- you -- you slowed 11 BY MR. DUBE: 12 it down. Correct? 12 Q Okay. Do you see anything consistent with 13 A Yes. 13 gun fire? Q Okay. And did you attempt to play it 14 A That and the muzzle flash. 14 15 frame by frame? 15 Q You saw a muzzle flash? 16 A Yes. 16 A Uh-huh. Q So you had the capability to do all of 17 Q Okay. What position is the muzzle facing? 17 18 those things. Correct? 18 A I can't really tell. I mean, it --19 Is it being pointed upwards? Is it being 19 A Yes. 20 Q This time, I'll slow it down for you. 20 shooting down or is it shooting up? 21 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 21 A It's hard to see. I -- I... 22 BY MR. DUBE: 22 Q All right. We'll play it again. And this Q And you had a copy of the video yourself, 23 time, I'm going to move -- I'm going to do it at 7 23 24 personally. Correct? minutes because I think that's really where the... 25 25 A I did at the time. Yes. (Whereupon, a video was played.)

162 164 1 BY MR. DUBE: A It's no different than the rest of the Q I direct you to pay attention to see what 2 left side of the screen. 3 direction the shots are being fired at. And also Q Fair enough. That -- did you see that --4 tell me if you see anything consistent with a person what -- move? 5 on their hands and knees. On the ground, I should A I saw a coloration change. Q Okay. Do you see it moving? 7 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 7 A When you say it, I --8 BY MR. DUBE: Q The -- right here. This. This --Q To the left, like did you see anything A Right. But when you're saying it, what am 10 consistent with somebody falling onto the screen and 10 I -- I can't tell you that's a person, so that --11 -- yes or no? 11 Q Okay. I'm not -- I'm not --12 A No. 12 A If you're saying it --Q Okay. Did you see anything consistent 13 Q I'm not saying it's a person yet. I --13 14 when you -- if you --14 with -- with a muzzle flash? 15 A Yes. 15 A But you said do you see it. 16 Q Okay. What position was the muzzle facing 16 Q Yes. Do you see this blob right here 17 and where was the shot being shot at? 17 moving? 18 A I'm not completely certain because of the 18 A I see the colors changing. 19 -- the poor lighting in the video. 19 Q Okay. All right. We'll keep going frame 20 Q Uh-huh. 20 by frame. 21 A I just saw it at the top at the center of 21 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 22 the screen. 22 BY MR. DUBE: 23 23 Q Does that appear consistent with a person Q Uh-huh. 24 A I -- I'm not sure where it's going. I 24 falling down to you? 25 don't know. 25 A I have no idea what it is. 163 165 Q Okay. This time I'm going to do it frame Q Okay. It's not -- for some reason... 2 by frame for you. Okay? (Whereupon, a video was played.) 3 BY MR. DUBE: 3 A Okay. Q Let's see if that helps. Okay. I'll try Q Do you see anything? 5 to get it to seven minutes so we don't -- okay. A Colors going from dark black to light 6 Perfect. All right. Actually, let me go up a 6 black or a lighter black. 7 little bit more. Oh, too far. And what -- what I (Whereupon, a video was played.) 8 want you to pay attention to is if you see anything Q How about now? What do you see at this 9 consistent with somebody coming into the frame from moment? 10 outside of the frame on the left-hand side, falling 10 A There's a muzzle flash at the top. 11 down and being on the ground. Okay? 11 O Okav. 12 A Okay. 12 A Appears to be a muzzle flash. 13 Q Let me know if you see that. 13 Q Okay. Can you discern what this is right 14 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 14 here? 15 BY MR. DUBE: 15 A No. 16 Q Do you see anything there? 16 Q Okay. 17 A No. 17 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 18 Q Okay. Can you see my -- my cursor? 18 BY MR. DUBE: 19 Q Can you -- in those last few frames, have A I can. 20 Q Okay. Do you see anything right here? 20 you -- is there any conclusion or opinion that 21 A A dark spot. 21 vou've drawn? 22 22 Q Okay. All right. A No. 23 A The -- the third of the left side of the 23 Q Okay. Anything there? 24 screen is dark. 24 A No. I mean, other than slight color 25 25 changes here and there, no. Q Right where my cursor is, right here.

166 168 Q Okay. Can you tell the position of the THE DEPONENT: I see -- I see where the 2 shooter in relationship to where the color changes 2 marker is, yes. 3 are occurring? (Whereupon, a video was played.) A Only because where the muzzle flash is, 4 BY MR. DUBE: 5 maybe to the right. Q Is that consistent with a person's head up Q Okay. Are they below or above where the here and back over here? 7 color change is occurring? MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 8 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 8 THE DEPONENT: I can't say that. 9 THE DEPONENT: I -- I'm not sure. I... 9 MR. DUBE: Okay. 10 MR. DUBE: Okay. All right. Can you 10 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 11 please play exhibit 18? 11 BY MR. DUBE: 12 BY MR. DUBE: 12 Q Do you see it consistent with a person on Q Okay. So we've isolated that portion of 13 the ground being shot? 13 14 the video. Okay? And so I'm going to play it for A I don't -- no, I -- it -- it's different 14 15 you. 15 color -- I mean, it's lighter, different colors, but 16 MR. DUBE: And can you do a VIC player, I can't tell you -- I can't tell you what it is. 17 sir? 17 The other thing I -- I mean --18 THE DEPONENT: When you say we, who is we? Q I just -- you don't have to go further. 19 MR. DUBE: We is defense. Just I'm asking if -- if you -- you see something. 20 THE DEPONENT: Okay. 20 If you see it, you see it. If you don't, you don't. 21 21 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Absolutely. A Okay. 22 MR. DUBE: I'm sorry. Not the defense. 22 Q That's all. And I'll play -- this time, 23 I'm usually -- the plaintiffs. Sorry. 23 I'll play it at -- this one. Where is that? 24 24 THE DEPONENT: Okay. (Whereupon, a video was played.) 25 25 BY MR. DUBE: MR. DUBE: The problem with this player is 167 169 Q Okay. And do -- I have to do the playba--1 that you can't change the speed until after you 2 - okay, so I'm going to play it one time, regular 2 press play. And so you have to -- it's unique --3 speed. 3 it's a -- it's a exercise in reflexes. Okay. 4 Playing at .25 speed. Tell me what you see. A Okay. Q Okay? And I'm going to slow it down again (Whereupon, a video was played.) 5 and you tell me if you observe anything. 6 6 BY MR. DUBE: MR. DUBE: Do I have control? I think you Q What, if anything, do you see? have to do it each time. A I see more discolorations, moving. It --8 9 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Yes, sir. You have 9 they are clearer than the other one, but they're not 10 -- I can't tell you definitively that's a person. I 10 control. 11 MR. DUBE: Is it playing -- oh, it's 11 -- I see where whoever's labeled it. I also don't playing at regular -- I want it at regular speed 12 12 know -- I -- I mean, you're showing me a video, but 13 first. 13 I don't know who's done this, who -- you know, what 14 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 14 they've done. And so that's -- I don't know the 15 BY MR. DUBE: 15 process. 16 Q What do you see there? 16 Q I -- I'm not asking you any of that. I'm 17 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 17 just asking you what do you see? 18 THE DEPONENT: I'm not sure. 18 A I saw a lighter-colored blob moving around 19 By Mr. Dube: 19 on the side over there. 20 Q Okay. Do you see anything -- where it's 20 Q Okay. I'll play it again. 21 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 21 labeled head, do you see something that is 22 BY MR. DUBE: 22 consistent with what you would expect a head to look 23 Q Do you see where it's marked Nathan's 23 like? 24 head? 24 A It's not round. It's -- no. 25 25 With -- with hair flopping? MR. GILES: Objection. Form.

170 172 A I -- I'm not sure what it is. 1 BY MR. DUBE: 2 Q I'll play it one more time. And I'll try Q So I want you to pay attention to this 3 area right here. Do you see that right there with 3 to pause it. Right... (Whereupon, a video was played.) 4 4 my mouse? 5 BY MR. DUBE: 5 A Yes. Q Do you see anything here consistent with a Q Okay. 7 person's head? And -- and then the back? 7 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 8 A I see a big dark side on the left over BY MR. DUBE: 9 there. Q And you see that something has emerged 10 Q Okay. Do you see a puff of smoke? 10 right here? Do you see that? 11 A I -- I see the color shifted. A Yes Okay. Does this appear the puff of smoke Q So you see -- you see a change from the 12 12 13 is shooting at whatever it is that you see down 13 previous frame. Correct? 14 A Yes. 14 here? 15 A Appears that direction, yes. 15 Q Okay. 16 Q And you can't tell from this still image 16 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 17 BY MR. DUBE: 17 right here that this is a person's head? 18 A You're telling me or asking me? 18 Q Do you see any change from the previous 19 Q I'm asking you, can you tell that? 19 frame? 20 20 A No. A Yes. 21 21 Q Okay. Q It's stuck. 22 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 22 MR. DUBE: Did it freeze on your end, sir? 23 Vincent? Can you get me back to -- I don't think 23 BY MR. DUBE: 24 Q Can you tell that this is a person's back? 24 this is -- okay. 25 A No. 25 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 171 173 Q The back side right here. 1 BY MR. DUBE: 1 Q All right. You see right here where it says Nathan's head? Do you see that? 3 Q Okay. Do you see any movement consistent 4 with somebody turning over after being shot? A Yes. A No. It just -- the -- I -- I see the --5 Q Okay. 6 what I call the blob -- the blob move to the bottom 6 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 7 of the screen or to the bottom left, but I can't BY MR. DUBE: 8 tell you that's a person. Q What do you see here? Q Okay. If that is a person, where would A The dark discoloration move to the right a 10 little bit. 10 they be in -- relative to the -- to the -- to the 11 gun that you see shooting down? 11 Q Okay. A Continuing to move to the right. Same. 12 MR. GILES: Objection. Form. 12 THE DEPONENT: I don't know that there's 13 13 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 14 enough there that I can tell you where they're at. 14 MR. DUBE: I don't know why it's not --15 BY MR. DUBE: 15 all right. Let's do this. Let's just do the same 16 thing. Q All right. Now the last time I'm going to 17 play it, but this time, I'll play it frame by frame 17 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 18 for you. Okay? 18 BY MR. DUBE: 19 A Okay. 19 Q You see where it says two? Q And tell me if that helps you in any way, 20 20 A No, I see three. 21 shape or form. If you see anything you want me to 21 Q Three? Okay. 22 pause, let me know and I'll -- I'll gladly pause for 22 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 23 you. Okay? 23 BY MR. DUBE: 24 A Okay. 24 Q And you can't te--- you cannot tell that 25 25 is a person on the ground being shot? (Whereupon, a video was played.)

174 176 A Okay. 1 No. 2 Q Okay. 2 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 3 BY MR. DUBE: 3 MR. DUBE: All right. Let's play exhibit Q What did you see? 4 number --5 MR. GILES: Could I please make sure we're 5 A I saw gun fire -- appeared to be gun fire. 6 clear on the record that what you've been playing as 6 Saw something moving, and at the end, Officer 7 exhibit 18 is not a copy of the actual video that Saldivar appears to be picking up his body camera. Q Was the thing moving the object that was 8 the chief looked at and not an actual video of this event, but some other recording that's been being shot at? 10 modified? 10 A I am not sure. 11 MR. DUBE: Correct. 11 Q Okay. Was the thing moving on the ground? 12 BY MR. DUBE: 12 A Not sure. Q And is there anything that prevented you 13 Q All right. We'll play it one more time. 13 14 from hiring somebody, a video enhancer, to do the (Whereupon, a video was played.) 14 same thing at the time of the incident? 15 BY MR. DUBE: 15 16 A No. 16 Q What did you see? 17 A Same thing I saw before, that it moves. 17 Q Okay. It was just your opinion decision 18 not to do so. Correct? 18 Q Does it appear to you that Officer 19 A I mean, mine, the investigators, yeah. 19 Saldivar is shooting at a person on the ground? 20 MR. DUBE: Okay. All right. We will play 20 A I'm not sure of that because I don't know 21 what's -- I -- I don't know what that is. 21 one more. I think it is exhibit 32. 22 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Sorry, sir. What was 22 Q Okay. I'm -- I'm asking you, based on 23 the exhibit number one more time? 23 what you see in the video, does it appear to you 24 MR. DUBE: Thirty-two, please. 24 that Officer Saldivar is shooting at the object on 25 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Thirty-two. Got it. 25 the ground? 175 177 1 BY MR. DUBE: The object on the ground? Q Okay. So in this video, the camera --3 because the camera was on the ground, it has been A I -- I -- I don't know 'cause I don't know 4 shifted, it's been rotated so that, you know, we are what it is and I don't know. 5 at street level now. And you will see where the car Q Are you able to discern whether or not 6 passes and you will see where the light post is. 6 that is a person on the ground? 7 Okay? So I'm going to play it one time for you. A I am not. 8 I'm showing you what's been marked exhibit 32. Q Okay. And I'm going to play it in slow 9 A Okay. motion for you the next time we go through. So you -10 MR. DUBE: Any objection to it being moved - so you do not see the person's hands moving, 11 into this deposition? 11 flailing, the head moving or anything from what you 12 just saw? 12 MR. GILES: No, I don't mind -- I don't --13 I don't object to you using this for the deposition 13 A No. 14 as long as we identify again, this is not a copy of 14 Q Okay. Now we're going -- we're going to 15 a recording the chief has seen and not a copy of a 15 do the exercise where I try to stop it. 16 recording that is the actual recording made at the 16 (Whereupon, a video was played.) 17 scene. 17 BY MR. DUBE: 18 MR. SELBE: No problem with using it in 18 Q How many muzzle flashes did you see? 19 19 the deposition. A I think two. 20 MR. DUBE: Okay. Thank you. 20 Q Okay. Could you tell what the -- what the 21 (Plaintiff's exhibit 32 marked for 21 gun was shooting at? 22 22 identification.) A Could not. 23 BY MR. DUBE: 23 Q Did you see an object in the direction Q Okay. I am playing it one time at regular where the gun was shooting at? 24 25 speed, then I'm going to slow it down. Okay? 25 A I don't know what I saw there.

178 180 Q So it's your testimony you can't -- you EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: I'm sorry, sir. I 2 don't know what you were seeing on the screen? 2 couldn't hear you. What was the number one more A That I don't know what I'm seeing? 3 time? MR. DUBE: Thirty-three. 4 Q Yeah. 4 5 A I see colors moving, but I don't know what 5 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: Thirty-three. Got it. 6 -- or colors changing, but I don't know what those MR. DUBE: Actually, before we go there, 7 colors are. let me take a quick break. Q Okay. Within the context of the VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. The time is 9 investigation where you know they've been shot -now 2:09. We're off the record. 10 Schenk was shot. Correct? 10 (Whereupon, a break was taken from the 11 A Yes. proceedings.) 12 Q Okay. And he was shot twice in the back. 12 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 2:12. 13 Correct? 13 We're back on the record. A Yes. 14 MR. DUBE: If we can show exhibit thirty--14 15 Q Okay. And you are a -- and you've seen 15 - I think it was 33, which -- whatever number I said 16 the muzzle flash. Correct? 16 prior to break. Is there anyway you can make this 17 17 full screen, sir? A Correct 18 Q Okay. And you've seen the muzzle flash 18 BY MR. DUBE: put into a particular direction. Correct? 19 Q I'm showing you what has been -- which are 20 A Correct. 20 screenshots from the video I just sent you -- I just 21 showed you. Okay? It's been marked as exhibit 21 Q Okay. It's still your testimony you 22 cannot discern what is occurring in this video in 22 number 33. 23 terms of where Officer Saldivar was and where Mr. 23 A Okay. 24 24 Schenk was at the time of the shooting. Q Do you -- do you see that? 25 A I can't --25 A Yes. 179 181 Q Is that -- is that your testimony? Q Okay. What if anything are you able to A I cannot tell you that because there's 2 see in this screenshot? 3 also an entrance wound to the front that -- I -- I A Street light, maybe some trees. I'm not 4 can't tell you what's happening when or where or who 4 sure -- there's black stuff down on the -- all along 5 he's pointing it at. 5 the right -- left side, but I don't know what --Q I'm not asking you to make a conclusion as what it is. 7 to whether or not the shooting is justified. I'm Q Okay. Do you see something right here 8 not asking you to make any -- let me finish -- any where I'm moving my cursor? 9 of those conclusions. I am just asking you if you A It's not moving. Where at? 10 can look at the video and tell me where you think 10 Q Oh, am I on the right -- yeah, I'm --11 Schenk is, where Officer Saldivar is and what 11 right here where my cursor is. See my cursor right 12 here? Do you see my cursor? 12 direction he's shooting at. 13 13 A I cannot. A No. Q Okay. And it's your testimony, sir, you -14 MR. DUBE: Can you give me cursor control, 15 - at this point of the movie, you cannot tell that 15 sir? 16 is Mr. Schenk being on his hands and knees while 16 THE DEPONENT: Now. It's moving around, 17 Officer Saldivar is shooting? 17 the cursor. 18 A I cannot tell you that from that image, 18 EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: I did, sir. 19 no. 19 BY MR. DUBE: 20 20 Q Okay. Can you see this cursor moving? Q Okay. One final time and then we'll move 21 on. 21 A Well, it stopped moving, but I... 22 22 (Whereupon, a video was played.) Q This one going in the circle?

23

24

25

A It's not moving.

MR. DUBE: It's not moving, sir.

THE DEPONENT: It was and then it stopped.

23

25 please.

MR. DUBE: Can you please show -- pull up

24 exhibit number -- hold on. Let me grab it; 33,

182 184 1 MR. DUBE: No, it was his cursor. 2 THE DEPONENT: Oh. 2 O Okay. And it says Nathan's head. Do you EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN: For -- for some 3 3 see that? 4 reason, when I give you control and you take over, 5 the mouse disappears. And --MR. DUBE: Okay. Can you -- can you go to I see the words on the screen. 7 7 the bottom left corner where -- do you see a blob on Yeah. the left corner right here? Yes. How about that? BY MR. DUBE: Q Yes. Do you see the words that say 10 Q Do you see that? 10 Nathan's back? 11 A Yes 11 12 Q Okay. What -- what do you think that is? 12 O Okay. All right. Do you see that? 13 13 A I -- I don't know. Α Okay. Next slide, please. Okay. What is 14 14 Okay. And is it your testimony that this 15 that? 15 is not consistent with a person's head and a 16 A I'm not sure. person's back with a gun being shot down at them? Q All right. Do you -- can you tell the A I can't tell you -- I -- fairly confident 17 17 18 outline of a head right here? 18 about the muzzle flash at the top. What you have 19 A I don't know where you're pointing to. 19 labeled Nathan's back and Nathan's head, I cannot 20 Q Okay. Can you see a head right here? 20 tell you that's what that is. 21 21 Can I see it? No, I cannot see a head Q Okay. All right. Thank you. No further 22 there. questions -- on -- on this topic. Sorry. 23 Q Okay. Do you see outline that's different After the conclusion of the investigation, did you -24 from what you see right here? 24 - did you terminate Officer Saldivar? 25 A It looks like bushes, if -- it looks like 25 A I did not. 183 185 1 a bush or a tree. It looks consistent to the one to Q Okay. Would you have had the authority to 2 the right of it after the lighter -- right here --2 terminate Officer Saldivar? 3 Q Uh-huh. A The authority, I could -- have the A -- this looks consistent with this. authority to indefinitely suspend him. 5 MR. DUBE: Okay. All right. Next slide, Q Okay. 6 please. 6 A Which would start the appeals process 7 BY MR. DUBE: 7 because there's a -- there's a back side in civil Q Okay. What do you see up here? 8 service if you terminate somebody. It's while I make A That's a -- appears to be a muzzle flash. 9 the decision to initiate the process, it's not the -Q Okay. Is it pointing towards this object - it's not the final say. 10 11 right here? 11 Q Okay. So you had the authority to ensure 12 A Actually, it looks like it's pointing 12 that he was no longer working as a member of the 13 above it. 13 police department at that time? Q So it's above it. What -- what direction A My decision's not final. It can be 14 15 is it shooting at? 15 overridden by the civil service commission or an 16 A It's shooting above the area that you're 16 arbitrator. So to say that I could definitively 17 pointing. It appears to be shooting at this area. 17 keep him from working for Pasadena Police 18 Q Okay. Do you see anything consistent with 18 Department, I can't say that. 19 a person's body shape here? Q But you have the authority to stop him 20 A I do not. 20 from operating from -- at that point until civil 21 Q Okay. Next slide, please. Okay. This has 21 service commission could make a determination. 22 Correct? 22 been annotated. Do you see that?

23

24

A I could do that. Yes.

25 from the police force?

Q What is the process to terminate somebody

23

24

A Yes.

25 you see that?

Q Okay. And it says muzzle flash here. Do

1 A Beginning when?

2 Q Beginning at act of misconduct.

3 A At some point, you draft a letter laying

- 4 out the -- the policy violations, law violations.
- 5 It becomes what's sometimes called the charging
- 6 document in civil service. And it's delivered to
- 7 the -- to the officer, telling them that they have
- 8 been indefinitely suspended and that they have a
- 9 certain -- the -- the appeals process is laid out to
- 10 them and the -- and the deadline and the timelines.
- 11 Q Yes. Did you do anything with respect to
- 12 Offi--- any of those things with respect to Officer
- 13 Saldivar after the shoo--- the Schenk shooting?
- 14 A After the Schenk shooting, no.
- 15 Q Did you take any steps to discipline
- 16 Officer Saldivar for the Schenk shooting?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q What is your opinion of Officer Saldivar's
- 19 conduct with respect to the Schenk shooting?
- 20 A It was lawful and justified.
- 21 Q Do you see anything that he could have
- 22 done better?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q Did anyone offer an opinion to you as to
- 25 whether or not Officer Saldivar should have remained

1 Houston before. We've gone to some of our federal

1 Trousion before. We ve gone to some or our lede

188

- 2 partners before.
- 3 Q At the time you were evaluating Officer
- 4 Saldivar's conduct, did you take the account that he
- 5 had also shot -- well, let me start over. At the
- 6 time you evaluated Officer Saldivar's conduct for
- 7 the Schenk shooting, did you also consider the
- 8 Ramirez shooting and his actions in that shooting as
- 9 well?
- 10 A No, because there -- it was a -- it was a
- 11 justified shooting in compliance with departmental
- 12 policy.
- 13 Q Did it concern you that the same officer
- 14 had shot two individuals within six months of each
- 15 other?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Okay. How did you hear about the Aviles
- 18 shooting? And by Aviles, I'm talking about the
- 19 shooting of Randy Aviles by Rigo Sal--- Salvidar.
- 20 A It was the night of, but I don't remember
- 21 -- I didn't make the scene, so I don't -- I don't
- 22 remember how I found out or who.
- 23 Q What did you hear about the shooting?
- 24 A That -- that it was a traffic stop that
- 25 Officer Saldivar had made. The driver had stopped,

- 1 on the police force after the Schenk shooting?
- 2 A No. Oh -- oh, let me correct that. The
- 3 lieutenant reviewed it and didn't find any policy
- 4 violations, misconduct, the assistant chief and then
- 5 myself. And so we were in agreement that he -- he
- 6 should remain employed with the department.
- 7 Q The officers -- did Sergeant Skripka offer
- 8 an opinion to you that Detective Saldivar (sic)
- 9 should not remain on the police force?
- 10 A No. And I -- he -- they were conducting a
- 11 criminal investigation, which is separate from the
- 12 administrative investigation. And so -- so as not to
- 13 appear to be influencing a criminal investigation in
- 14 any way, they run that investigation after initial15 contact that I had with them regarding the video.
- 16 They pre--- completed their case, present it to the
- To Triey pre--- completed their case, present it to
- 17 D.A.'s office and then we go through the
- 18 administrative process.
- 19 Q You mentioned that the -- the -- the video
- 20 could have been sent to an outside agency for it to
- 21 be enhanced.
- 22 A Could have been? Yes.
- 23 Q Okay. Is there a particular agency that
- 24 the Pa--- Pasadena Police Department uses?
- 25 A We've gone to NASA before. We've gone to

- 1 jumped out, simply drove away and Officer Saldivar
  - 2 fired at the vehicle.
  - 3 Q How were you contacted?
  - 4 A I assume by phone, but I don't know. I
  - 5 can't tell you -- I -- I don't have an independent
  - 6 recollection on this one like I do on some of the
  - 7 other ones.
  - 8 Q What phone would -- would you have been
- 9 contacted on, a personal phone?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Okay. Is this the same phone that you
- 12 currently possess?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q Okay. When did you change out that phone?
- 15 A The same thing -- it's the same. It was
- 16 probably about a year ago, I got a new phone, so
- 17 that would have been after.
- 18 Q Did -- when you trans--- when you got the
- 19 new phone, did you transition any data from the
- 20 previous phone to that phone?
- 21 A No. I start over, 'cause otherwise, they
- 22 get slow and sluggish and...
- 23 Q Did you back up any data, like pictures or
- 24 anything you had on that phone, to a cloud or
- 25 anything?



Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 49 of 128 Page 49 Chief Joshua Bruegger January 5, 2024 NDT Assgn # 7 1056 Page 49 Case 4:22-cv-03571 190 192 They are backed up to a hard drive I have. A I had made the decision the following 2 Okay. So the data on the previous phone 2 morning that caused pause, caused concern. But 3 is backed up to the data to a hard drive that you 3 Officer Saldivar is also entitled to due process and 4 so I don't know what -- you know, had he been 4 have? 5 A Data? The pictures. 5 interviewed? I didn't know -- all I had at that 6 6 point was making a decision based on the video and -O 7 Pictures are all I have. 7 - and the quick evidence that I had to protect 8 Okay. How about text messages or anything Officer -- Officer Saldivar and the organization. 9 of that sort? Q How did you get a copy of the video? 10 A No. 10 A It was -- they're -- they're online. They Q Are you sure -- like what is the process 11 all upload to the cloud. 11 12 of backing up? 12 Q Well, what made you go review the video? A Back the pictures -- drag them over to my 13 A Because it was an officer-involved 13 14 hard drive and then they -- that's where they're at. 14 shooting and it's a significant event. 15 Did you do that or did somebody at Verizon 15 Q So do you -- so do you review videos of 16 do it? 16 every officer-involved shooting? 17 17 A Yes. A No, I did that. 18 Q All right. So you were contacted on your 18 Q Okay. While you were chief of police, how personal phone about the Saldivar shooting. Who -many officer-involved shootings occurred during your 19 who contact you? 20 watch? 20 21 21 A I don't know. A I'm not sure. 22 Q Okay. What were you told? 22 Q Okay. As -- as assistant chief, how many A That there was a traffic stop, the -- the 23 officer-involved shootings occurred? 23 24 24 driver had gotten out, driven away. And at some A I -- I would be guessing. I don't know. 25 point, Officer Saldivar discharged his firearm at 25 Q Okay. 191 193 1 the -- at the person in the vehicle. A Some years there's more than others. So I Q Were you told anything else? don't -- I don't know. 3 A At that point, no. 3 Q Okay. Let's just take it -- let's take it Q Okay. Was --4 position by position. Okay? When you were 5 A Well, he -- I -- I was told that the 5 assistant chief, do you recall whether or not there 6 person was struck, but he was likely going to 6 were more than five, more than ten? How many 7 survive his injuries. But that was -- that was the 7 officer-involved shootings occurred while you were 8 extent of it assistant chief of police? Q Okay. What's the next thing you recall A I would say ten. Probably more than ten. 10 with respect to the -- of the shooting that involved Q And how long were you chief of police? 10 11 you and your participation? 11 Assistant chief of police. Sorry. 12 A The next morning, I reviewed the video, 12 A Five years and a couple months. drafted the administrative leave letter for Officer 13 Q And then in the two months that you were Saldivar. And that's what I recall my initial --14 interim chief of police, how many officer-involved 15 Q What were your thoughts upon seeing that shootings occurred during that time? 16 video? 16 A I only know of the Schenk, but that 17 A I had concerns. 17 doesn't mean there wasn't another one. I don't --18 Q Okay. What were those concerns? 18 I'm not sure. A That Officer Saldivar had shot at a Q And how long between that -- because that 19 -- that was in April -- or that was in November of 20 vehicle that was driving away.

21

22

Q Any other concerns?

A I mean, I think that's a big enough

Q Did you feel that he was under any

23 concern. That's the only one I had at the time.

21 2018. Correct?

A Correct.

January 2019. Correct?

22

23

24

Q Okay. And you became chief of police

- Q Okay. So from January ni--- 2019 to
- 2 January 2021 when Officer Saldivar shot Mr. Aviles,
- 3 how many officer-involved shootings occurred during
- 4 that time?
- 5 A I'm not sure. They all run together and I
- 6 can't tell you by -- you know, by years.
- Q Okay. More than five, more -- less than
- 8 ten? Like can you give me your best estimate?
- A My best estimate is five to ten.
- 10 Q Five to ten.
- 11 A Well, that might be high because I'm --
- 12 I'm thinking my entire time as chief. That's just a
- 13 two-year period. Probably closer to five.
- Q Closer -- okay. So while you were chief, 14
- 15 you estimate there were about five to ten shootings
- 16 that occurred?
- 17 A During the five years that I was -- or
- 18 almost five years I was chief, yes.
- 19 Q Okay. And during the two years between
- 20 when you became chief and when Officer Saldivar shot
- Mr. Aviles, there were approximately five shootings?
- 22 A Give or take, yes.
- 23 Q Of those shootings, how many did the
- 24 police department determine were justified or
- 25 unjustified?

1 three days. And then before they come back, they

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- 2 have to go see a police psychiatrist to be cleared
- 3 to come back as well as have to go to the range and
- 4 qualify. Once those are done -- and again, each case
- 5 is a little bit different because it depends on the
- circumstances of the shooting as well.
- This last shooting the Officer Saldivar,
- the Aviles shooting, was a little bit different
- because he never went back to the streets after that
- 10 shooting.

21

- 11 That day was -- after that, he never
- 12 worked the streets. And that was because of the
- concerns. And so allowing the process to play out -
- and so you asked about due process; you -- you --
- there's really three investigations that go on when
- there's a shooting. You have the criminal
- 17 investigation done by the detectives with the
- organization. You have the internal affairs
- investigation, which in some ways parallels the
- 20 criminal investigation, but it's also separate.
  - And then you also have the district
- 22 attorney's office comes out on all of the officer-
- 23 involved shootings and they conduct their own
- 24 investigation. And then they take their
- 25 investigation and the criminal investigation and

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- 1 I'm not -- I -- I don't know the answer to
- 2 that.
- 3 Q What other pro--- so what are the
- 4 procedures that your police department implemented
- 5 or incorporated while you were chief for an officer-
- 6 involved shooting? Like what were the due process
- 7 rights of an officer? What were the steps after a
- 8 shooting?
- A So they were already in place. The only
- 10 change we made was when an officer's involved in a
- 11 shooting, they previously had gotten three -- were
- 12 on administrative leave for a minimum of three days.
- 13 We moved that to five.
- 14 Q Uh-huh.
- 15 A To five days.
- 16 Q Uh-huh.
- 17 A And so that was the only change that was
- 18 made. There was already a pretty good process and
- procedure in place.
- 20 Q And what was that process and procedure?
- 21 A So when an officer's involved in a
- 22 shooting, at the time of the scene, they are put in
- 24 not to talk about the case. The officer then goes 25 on administrative leave after that day for at least
- 23 a car with what we call a buddy officer and they are

- - Q What -- are officers given access to an
  - attorney at the scene of a shooting?
  - A Are they given access?

1 present it to a grand jury.

- 5 Yes. Q
- 6 A That's their right through the union.
- 7 It's a criminal investigation, so just like anybody
- else that's accused of a crime, if they request an
- attorney, then they are entitled to an attorney just
- 10 like anybody else.
- 11 Q Are they provided an attorney with the --
- 12 are they required to request an attorney before the
- 13 attorney gets there or is the off-- is the attorney
- automatically dispatched to the scene?
- 15 A It's not automatic. We -- the Pasadena
- 16 Police Department as an organization does not do it.
- 17 Now, if other officers call for an officer, I have
- 18 no knowledge of that. I don't -- I don't ask, hey,
- how did you get out here? So I'm not sure. I can
- just tell you from my experience with the
- 21 organization that sometimes the officer will call:
- sometimes another officer will call on their behalf.
- 23 But the legal protection is -- is provided through
- 24 their union dues.
- 25 Q Uh-huh.



Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 51 of 128 Page 51 Chief Joshua Bruegger January 5, 2024 NDT Assgn # 7 1056 Page 51 Case 4:22-cv-03571 198 200 A And so sometimes the union president will 1 -- I believe the shooting was on January 12 of '21. 2 find out about it and the union president will 2 I believe. And then the following day, the letter 3 was drafted and then Officer Saldivar stayed out on 3 contact the attorney. Q Okay. Back to Officer Saldivar in the 4 administrative leave until the 24th of January. 5 Aviles shooting, so after the Aviles shooting, you 5 Q Okay. 6 stated the next day, you watched the video. A And then when he came back on the 25th, I 7 Correct? 7 met with him and told him he was going to be 8 A Yes. assigned to inside duties. 9 Q And then you wrote a -- a administrative Q And how long would he be assigned to 10 leave memo? 10 inside duties did you tell him? 11 11 A I told him until we got this all -- the A Yes 12 12 investigation was done. Q What did that memo say? 13 13 A It's standard. It says you're -- you --Q And who was conducting that investigation? 14 A Detectives were investigating, one, the 14 basically, you're on leave, administrative leave, 15 because you were involved in a shooting, and -- and 15 criminal investigation, and then internal affairs 16 you can't come back to work until at least these -conducted the administrative investigation. 17 this criteria is met. 17 Q How long did Officer Saldivar remain on 18 Q Did you draft the administrative leave 18 inside duty? 19 memo after the Schenk shooting? A Until his separation from the department. 19 A Yes. Well, one was drafted. Whether I did 20 20 Q When was that? 21 21 it or one of the assistant chiefs, one was done. I believe it was July 9th of 2021. 22 Yes. Yes. 22 What caused the separation from the 23 23 department? Q Okay. So one was done, but not you? 24 24 A I may have done it. I don't know. A What caused it? He ele---25 Q Okay. How about after the Ramirez 25 Q For -- go ahead. 199 201 1 shooting? Α Go --2 A Yes. No. What caused it? 3 Okay. He elected to retire. A It would have been -- it -- it's standard Was he suspended for the Aviles shooting? procedure that's done on officer-involved shootings. 5 Suspended? 6 Q Do you recall whether or not you did it? 6 Q Yes. 7 A I don't recall. A No. The investigation wasn't done when he Okay. Why -- why did you take it upon separated. He still had an open criminal yourself to write the memo after the Aviles investigation that was at the -- the district 10 shooting? 10 attorney's office. And so as chief, if I'm at --11 A Because I was in the office dealing with 11 end up having to indefinitely suspend or terminate 12 all of that -- normally, I do them. 12 somebody, I want the best case that I can get 13 Q Okay. 13 because the last thing I want is an officer that --14 A If I'm out of town, not there, somebody 14 you know, that I separate from, an arbitrator 15 else will do it. 15 sending them back. 16 Q Uh-huh. 16 And so we have -- one of our rules, for 17 A But generally, I do them. So that wasn't 17 example, is that you have to follow the laws. And 18 out of the ordinary for me to do it for the Aviles 18 so, you know, my concerns with this last shooting, 19 the Aviles shooting, was potentially, there could be shooting.

23

20 criminal violations. And if so, it would be prudent

22 because he was no longer -- he -- he was inside.

24 And so he -- he didn't have contact with the public.

25 He was assigned to the property room. And so to

He was restrictive duties, inside duties.

21 for me as chief to wait until all of it's done

20

22

24

25

21 you wrote the memo?

Q Uh-huh.

23 could deliver it to Officer Saldivar.

Q Gotcha. And then what did you do after

A Because he was on administrative leave. I

A Delivered it to internal affairs so they

1 allow this investigation to play out, allow the

- 2 district attorney's office to make their decision
- 3 because if I get to a position where I have to
- 4 terminate or indefinitely suspend him, the more I
- 5 have, the better.
- And so you know, had he been -- had he
- 7 still been employed with us when he was indicted,
- 8 that would be another -- another thing that I could
- articulate as a reason for the -- for the
- 10 termination. And so...
- 11 Q While he was inside, did -- did he have
- 12 access to a weapon?
- 13 A I don't recall. I don't rec--- I -- I
- 14 don't remember whether his police powers were
- 15 terminated or he was just inside because I know he
- 16 could not work extra jobs; he couldn't -- I can't
- 17 take somebody -- I -- I can't take somebody's
- 18 weapon. Officers' weapons are owned by the officer.
- 19 They are not owned by -- by the organization. So I
- 20 -- I can't take officers' weapons. Even --
- 21 Q Well, his -- so you -- you could not
- 22 restrict his ability to have a gun while he was
- 23 working for the City?
- 24 A I could restrict his ability to possess a
- 25 gun because of his being a peace officer in the

1 affirmatively taking away his ability to carry a gun

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- 2 while performing his duties as a police officer
- 3 after the Aviles shooting?
  - A He wasn't performing duties as a police
- officer after the shooting. He was inside assigned
- to the property room doing clerical work.
- Q Okay. Is clerical work not part of police
- duties?
- A It's no different than all the civilians
- 10 that are in there. It's -- it's all civilians and
- 11 then it was him while he was assigned there.
- 12 Q Was he being paid?
- 13 Yes.
- 14 He was being paid by the police
- 15 department?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Okay. So at -- at that time, do you
- 18 recall whether or not you took -- you took away his
- ability to possess a gun while on the premises of
- 20 Pasadena Police Department?
- 21 A I do not recall that.
- 22 Q So from January 25th 'til he retired in --
- 23 A It was July 9th, I believe.
- 24 Q -- on July 9th, he remained employed by
- 25 the Pasadena Police Department?

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- 1 State of Texas. However, I think you said earlier,
- 2 you know, open carry and all of that, because of
- 3 that, just like anybody else in Texas, assuming
- 4 you're not a felon and -- and the limited criteria,
- 5 could carry a gun, Officer Saldivar could carry a 6 gun under that authority whether I took his police
- 7 powers away from him or not.
- Q Could -- but while he was at the police
- 9 department and on his way to work at the police
- 10 department or leaving work from the police
- 11 department, would you have had the ability to
- 12 restrict his ability to possess a gun during those
- 13 times?
- 14 A Coming to and from work? No.
- 15 Q At work?
- 16 A At work, I could. He was in plain
- 17 clothes. He was not in uniform. After -- whenever
- 18 he came back on June 25th, he was never in uniform
- 19 again either. So I don't --
- 20 Q So -- and --
- 21 A He wasn't walking around with a gun on his
- 22 hip. I don't know if -- I -- I -- again, I -- one,
- 23 I don't know if we suspended those privileges.
- Q Do you -- so let me ask the question this
- 25 way. Sitting where you are today, do you recall

- A Yes.
  - Q Okay. And he was being paid by the
  - Pasadena Police Department?
  - A Yes. But civil service also governs the
  - 5 ability to --
  - 6 Q There's not a question pending, sir.
  - 7 A I'm sorry?
  - Q There's not a question pending. I just
  - 9 ask the questions I ask. I'm -- would it have been
  - -- would it have been accurate for him during that
  - 11 time period to tell somebody I am a Pasadena Police
  - 12 Department officer?
  - 13 A Would it have been what?
  - 14 Q So during -- from Jan--- January 2021 --
  - January 25th, 2021 to July 9th, 2021, if Officer
  - Saldivar was asked, are you a Pasadena Police

  - 17 Department officer and he said yes, would that have
  - 18 been accurate?
  - 19 A Yes.

- Q Do you know when the -- when the
- 21 investiga--- when the internal affairs investigation
- 22 into the Aviles shooting concluded?
- 23 A It wasn't until after he was gone because
- 24 it was left open and not concluded with findings
- 25 because we were waiting on the district attorney's

1 office because, again, that -- that rule that I

- 2 mentioned about having to follow the laws. And then
- 3 once he separated from the organization, there was
- 4 no hurry at that point because he -- he didn't work
- 5 for the organization and we could wait until it
- 6 played out in the -- in the criminal system.
- 7 Q Do you know when the investigation was
- 8 sent over to the district attorney's office?
- 9 A Definitively, no.
- 10 Q Okay. Approximately, in your
- 11 approximation, when do you think that would have
- 12 been done?
- 13 A I seem to recall it being in April
- 14 sometime.
- 15 Q Okay. The shooting occurred in January
- 16 and was sent over to the D.A.'s office approximately
- 17 April?
- 18 A That's my recollection.
- 19 Q Okay.
- 20 A I'm not a hundred percent certain on that.
- 21 But...
- 22 Q Okay. And you said when he came back on
- 23 January 25th, 2021, you had a conversation with
- 24 Officer Saldivar?
- 25 A A brief conversation, yes.

- 1 separated from the organization.
- 2 Q Okay. Well, what was his classification

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- 3 when he separated?
- 4 A It was honorable.
- 5 Q So he received an honorable -- is it
- 6 discharge? What --
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q What do you call it?
- 9 A Yes, discharge.
- 10 Q What's the effect of having a honorable
- 11 discharge in terms of his pension and other things?
- 12 A It has no effect on pension. Whether he --
- 13 I mean, under these circumstances, had I -- had it
- 14 gotten to the point where I indefinitely suspended
- 15 him, it -- it -- your pension doesn't change in the
- 16 State of Texas. His pension is his pension. I mean,
- 17 even hypothetically in this case, if he were to be
- 18 convicted and go to prison, he still continues to
- 19 receive his pension. Those are his -- his monies
- 20 under the -- in the state.
- 21 Q Is there a -- a dishonorable discharge
- 22 that can be given to an officer separating?
- 23 A There is.
- 24 Q Okay. What's the difference between a
- 25 dishonorable discharge and honorable discharge?

- 1 Q What was that conversation? What did you
- 2 say; what did he say?
- 3 A That with this shooting, the investigation
- 4 pending, there was some concerns and he was going to
- 5 be on inside duty, no uniform, no extra jobs, all of
- 6 that, until after the investigation was complete.
- Q What did he say in response?
- 8 A Not much. He was mad and left.
- 9 Q How do you know he was mad?
- 10 A I could tell by the look on his face and
- 11 the way that he left the room, quickly without
- 12 saying anything.
- 13 Q Did you have any interaction with him
- 14 between January 2021 and July 9th, 2021?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Okay. Tell me about those interactions.
- 17 A The only interaction was right before he
- 18 separated from the organization, the -- the
- 19 circumstance under which he was going to leave and -
- 20 and TCOL and all of that.
- 21 Q The jury doesn't know. So explain to the
- 22 jury what you mean by that.
- 23 A The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- 24 and -- and how hi--- how he was going to be -- his
- 25 classification was going to be on the -- when he

- 1 A Typically, dishonorable, most often,
- 2 criminal conduct or untruthfulness are the two big
- 3 ones.
- 4 Q Okay. But in terms of benefits and terms
- 5 of how it -- it affects a person going forward,
- 6 what's the difference in honorable discharge and
- 7 dishonorable discharge?
- A Changes absolutely nothing. And that's
- 9 the reason the State of Texas is about to change it,
- 10 changed the last legislative session.
- 11 Q Okay. How is -- what's the change?
- 12 A There is no categories. You just --
- 13 Q Discharge --
- 14 A You work from this -- for the organization
- 15 from this day to this day.
- 16 Q When you were chief of police, did you
- 17 have any role in hiring or -- or not hir--- or -- in
- 18 hiring or -- sorry. When you were chief of police,
- 19 did you have any role in hiring officers?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay. Would you have hired an officer
- 22 with a dishonorable discharge from another police
- 23 department?
- 24 A It depends. It's the background process.
- 25 Kind of -- you -- and the chiefs, we don't give a



1 lot of credence to the classifications. And that's

- 2 why it's incumbent upon organizations to do a
- 3 thorough background check with another department.
  - Q Well, if -- if you had a -- two candidates
- 5 for -- for -- for a position, one was honorable
- 6 discharge and one was dishonorably discharged, would
- 7 it have affected you view as to making a decision
- 8 either way?
- A Again, it would depend on what the -- I
- 10 mean, you have politics in like sheriff's offices
- 11 and constable's office that sometimes come into play
- 12 in these things. And so it -- it depends on the
- 13 background investigation and what's the reasoning
- 14 behind it.
- 15 Q So it played no role in your hiring
- 16 process?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Why did you decide to give Officer
- 19 Saldivar an honorable discharge as opposed to a
- 20 dishonorable discharge?
- 21 A As an incentive for him to separate from
- 22 the organization.
- 23 Q Explain what you mean by that.
- 24 A So like I mentioned, any time if I
- 25 indefinitely suspend an officer, they have a right

- 1 the Aviles shooting was unjustified?
- 2 A When he separated, no, because the
- 3 investigation wasn't complete.
  - Q So when he separated eight months later,

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- 5 nothing in his employment file indicated that he had
- 6 been involved in a shooting that was deemed
- 7 unjustif--- that you deemed unjustified?
- 8 MR. SELBE: Objection.
- 9 MR. GILES: Ob--- object. Form.
- 10 THE DEPONENT: Sorry. Repeat your
- 11 question.
- 12 BY MR. DUBE:
- 13 Q Sure. So at the time he separated from
- 14 the Pasadena Police Department eight months after
- 15 the Aviles shooting, there is nothing in his
- 16 employment file that indicated that you or anybody
- 17 else at the Pasadena Police Department determined
- 18 that his shooting of Randy Aviles was unjustified.
- 19 A There wasn't because we couldn't.
- 20 MR. GILES: Dimitri, we've been going
- 21 almost two hours.
- 22 MR. DUBE: Uh-huh.
- 23 MR. GILES: Can we take a short break?
- 24 MR. DUBE: Of course. All right. Ten --
- 25 MR. GILES: Ten minutes?

- 1 to appeal and go to the civil service commission or
- 2 an arbitrator. Arbitration is binding. And way too
- 3 often -- this has been a topic that's come up, you
- 4 know, post-George Floyd, the arbitration process,
- 5 there's a Vanderbilt law, I recall, 46 percent of
- 6 terminations were overturned by an arbitrator.7 And so as chief, first and foremost is
- 8 protect the organization, protect the citizens. And
- 9 that was at this point, after this -- this case,
- 10 Officer Saldivar being outside -- being out of the
- 11 organization. And so if he would separate without
- 12 me having to terminate him, it's a benefit to the --
- 13 it's a win/win for the organization because there's
- 14 no appeals process, so it's final. He's -- he's
- 15 gone. There's no risk of him coming back to the16 organization.
- 17 And so any agency that does a background
- 18 check should -- all of it's there. We -- we, by law,
- 19 have to open up all the files to those
- 20 organizations. So with that said, if that was
- 21 important to him to get him to -- to separate from
- 22 the organization...
- 23 Q At the time Officer Saldivar departed --
- 24 separated from Pasadena Police Department, was there
- 25 anything in his employment files that indicated that

- 1 MR. DUBE: Sure.
  - 2 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 2:53
- 3 and we're off the record.
- 4 (Whereupon, a break was taken from the
- 5 proceedings.)
- 6 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 3:09
- 7 and we're back on the record.
- 8 BY MR. DUBE:
- 9 Q During the time from January of 2021 and
- 10 August of 2021 when he was terminated -- sorry, when
- 11 he retired, what were his exact duties for Officer
- 12 Saldivar?
- 13 A They were inside, basically clerical
- 14 duties, receiving evidence as it comes in, doing
- 15 research on evidence that -- that can be destroyed.
- 16 And so it's clerical work.
- 17 Q Okay. Are there any other Pasadena police
- 18 officers who performed that same -- those same
  - 9 duties and work?
- 20 A It's civilians.
- 21 Q Okay.
- 22 A There's a sergeant in there.
- 23 Q Uh-huh.
- 24 A There is now -- it's gone back and forth,
- 25 but as far as officers, there's not officers.



214 216 1 It's... 1 April of 2021? 2 Q And that was a decision that you made. A Yes. 3 Correct? Q Do you know why it took so long for an A Yes. indictment? 5 Q And that was within your authority. 5 A Do I know why? 6 Correct? Uh-huh. 7 A Yes 7 A I know what I was told. 8 Q Okay. And the reason you made that Q Okay. What were you told? 9 decision was to prevent him from interacting with A The civil rights prosecutors were busy 10 the public? 10 with Harding Street and didn't have time to review 11 A Yes. 11 it and get on it. Q Okay. And from placing the public in 12 Q What's Harding Street? 12 13 A Harding Street was a shooting in Houston, 13 danger? ended up with several officers indicted. 14 A Yes. 14 15 Q Okay. And did you believe that he was a 15 Q So how did you learn this information? 16 threat to the public at that time? 16 A I talked to the district attorney. A I don't know that I -- threat's not the 17 Q Okay. When did you talk to the district 17 18 right word. 18 attorney? 19 19 A November of -- he was indicted in January Q A danger. A I -- I -- I don't even know that I would 20 of '23? 20 21 21 call it danger. I just think the prudent thing to Q Uh-huh. 22 do would be to keep him inside and not interact with 22 A November of '22. 23 23 the public. Q Well, can you tell me about that 24 24 conversation? Q Prudent in what way? 25 A You had an open investigation. I had 25 A Tell you about it? 215 217 1 concerns, you know, with -- with the last shooting. Q Yes. 2 And so to prevent anything else, you know, from A I -- I just asked her why it was taking so 3 happening until all of this was done and I could 3 long, that they had had it for some time. 4 make a final decision was the best place. Q Uh-huh. Q So because there's an open investigation A And she was initially surprised, told me 6 into the Aviles shooting, you felt it was best to --6 they shouldn't take that long, told me that, you 7 to keep him from interacting with the public? 7 know, they had been busy with Harding Street. And A Because of the circumstances of the Aviles 8 she told me when she got back to the office, she pu--- Aviles shooting, yes. would figure out what the delay was. Q And that investigation did not close prior Q Okay. Do you know whether or not it had 10 10 11 to him leaving the police department? 11 been presented to the grand jury prior to January 12 2023? 12 A That's correct. Criminal investigation 13 was open -- I mean, technically, it's still open. 13 A Aviles shooting? Q Do you recall when he was actually 14 14 Q Yes. 15 A To my knowledge, no. 15 indicted? 16 A Right before the two-year anniversary. I 16 MR. GILES: Hey, Dimitri, could you keep 17 want to say the middle of December of 2022. 17 your voice up? You --18 Q If I told you it was the beginning of 18 MR. DUBE: Yeah. 19 January of 2023, would you have any reason to 19 MR. GILES: You may be a little far away 20 dispute -from the microphone or something, but every once in 21 A No, it was around that time. Right --21 awhile, you're difficult to hear. 22 22 short of two years. I knew that. Or right around MR. DUBE: Okay. Thank you for telling me 23 that. 23 two years. Q And you stated before that the D.A.'s 24 BY MR. DUBE: 24

25

Q And at that time, in November 2022,

25 office had received the file from you guys in about

218 220 1 Officer Saldivar had already separated himself from Q Yes. 2 the police department. Correct? A It -- yes. If we were served in twenty-3 two -- October of '22, then yes. A Yes, but we still had -- we still had the Q Do you recall whether in your conversation 4 open case sitting there, so yes. Q Do you know approximately how long after 5 with the -- with the -- a D.A. if you told -- if you 6 the Schenk shooting did that case go to the grand 6 informed them that the City had been sued for a 7 jury? 7 shooting? A There was a delay there as well. It A No, I had not. 9 wasn't two years. But I -- I don't remember when it 9 Q You don't recall or you did not tell them? 10 was. I -- I know it took a long time only because 10 A I did not tell them that. 11 there was some litigation over -- over some records 11 Q Do you know if anybody told him that? 12 over it, but it was -- it was awhile. 12 A I have no knowledge of anybody telling 13 13 him, no. Q It was -- it was less than two years? 14 A Yes. 14 Q What's your opinion -- actually, no, 15 Q Was it less than a year? 15 before we get to that, tell me how the conversation 16 A I -- I don't know. I -- I seem to recall 16 -- I'm sorry, let me start over. Tell me the 17 it being around a year, but it was -- it was 17 conversations that occurred at the time of Saldivar 18 lengthy. 18 separating himself from the police department August 19 2021. 19 Q How about the Ramirez shooting? Was there 20 a grand jury there as well? 20 A A lot of it's going to be attorney--- it's 21 21 A I don't know -- I -- I'm not sure if that going to be attorney/client, so... 22 one was presented since nobody was hit. They've gone 22 Q Well, I'll -- let's unpack that a little 23 back and forth on whether they present cases where a 23 bit because I just -- I'm trying to understand what 24 -- what -- what would have been and what would not 24 person is not actually struck. 25 Q Okay. So Officer Saldivar was indicted in 25 have been. The conversation with Saldivar would not 219 221 1 late December, early January twenty-twen--- late 1 be attorney/client privilege. 2 December 2022, early January 2023. Correct? A Correct. Q Okay? And so -- so without telling me 3 A Yes. Q Okay. Do you recall when this lawsuit was 4 what -- like, you know, what you said, okay, or what 5 filed? 5 any attorney said to you, okay, tell me what type of 6 A No. 6 conversations you had at the time that Officer 7 Q Okay. If I told you it was filed on 7 Saldivar separated from the police department. October 16th, 2022, would that refresh your memory? A There was only one conversation. It was 9 A I'm not sure. 9 after discussions with the attorney where Officer Q Okay. Let me ask you this. When -- when 10 Saldivar reached out about separation and his F-5 10 11 did you first become aware of this lawsuit? 11 form with TCOL. And he just wanted it in writing 12 A Whenever the City was served. 12 what it was going to be. And I said I would do that 13 as long as I got his retirement from him. And that 13 Q Okay. So whenever the City was served, 14 that's when you became aware of the lawsuit? 14 was the extent of the conversation. 15 15 A Yes. Q What's a T-5 file? 16 Q Okay. Did your conversation with the 16 A No. F-5. 17 district attorney's office, did that occur before or 17 Q F-5. 18 after the City was served? 18 Α It's the separation form with TCOL. A It was in November of '22. When did you 19 I'm sorry. 20 20 say the City was served? Α Yeah 21 Q In October. 21 Q What's -- what's the F-5 file? 22 22 A It was after that. Α What is it? 23 Q Okay. And he was indicted while this case 23 O

24

It's the separation form with TCOL, the

25 honorable, dishonorable. That -- that --

24 was pending. Correct?

A While the lawsuit was pending?

Document 47-3 Filed on 05/16/24 in TXSD Page 57 of 128 Page 57 Chief Joshua Bruegger January 5, 2024 NDT Assgn # 71056 Page 57 Case 4:22-cv-03571 222 224 Okay. 1 Saldivar? Yes or no. 1 2 A It's that form. A No 3 Q I gotcha. And he wanted to know what it Q So his employment file would not reflect 4 any discipline for the shooting of Randy Aviles in 4 would say? 5 A Yes. 5 his -- sorry, I'm going to say it twice. Strike Q Did he ask you why? Did he -- did he tell 6 that. So his employment file would not reflect any 7 you why he wanted to know? 7 civil service discipline for the shooting of Randy A Yes, he said, I just want to make sure 8 Aviles. Correct? 9 this is going to be an honorable discharge. And he A Correct. 10 said, I just don't want you to say one thing and Q Would they issue any reprimands or lesser 10 11 change it later. And so I said, I'll give it to you 11 discipline for that shooting? 12 in writing as long as I have a resignation letter 12 A No. 13 Q Would -- would -- would it reflect that he 13 from you. And so... Q When did he first inform you that he 14 was placed in the -- what's it called? What did you 14 15 intended to resign? 15 say? A It was the week -- it was within a week or 16 The property room? 17 two of him actually leaving because part of the 17 The property room? 18 problem was we were coming up -- civil service, you 18 I don't know that his file will say it. I 19 got to impose discipline within 180 days from the 19 know there's a record of it, but his file doesn't 20 day of the offense. And I believe that day was July 20 say it.

20 day of the offense. And I believe that day was July
21 11th because I think the 9th was a Friday. And so
22 it was a Sunday and I wasn't coming to work Sunday.
23 And so we had to -- I -- at that point, was being -24 my hand was being forced to -- to -- to make a
25 say it.
26 So now we're going from July 11, 2021 to
27 August 2021. Or August 9th when he -28 A July 9th. He separated July 9th.
29 No, he separated August 9th.

25

223

A From the Pasadena Police Department?

Q Okay. So let's -- let's back up. So the Q Uh-huh. Yeah. It... incident ha--- occurred on January 12th, 2021. A I don't think so. You might be right, but 3 A Yes. 3 it's not my recollection. Okay. Civil service discipline, right --Q I think you actually testified earlier 5 A One -- yeah, 143.052 of the local 5 that it was August 9th as well, so -- but we will --6 government code. 6 we'll get to -- actually, you know what? I should 7 Q Okay. Had to occur within six months? have it here. 8 180 days is what it says. 8 MR. DUBE: Let's go off the record for two 9 Q 180 days of the misconduct. minutes 10 A Correct. 10

11 O Okay. So that would be July --11 and we're off the record. 12 Α 11th. 12 (off the record.) 13 Ω -- 11th? 13 14 and we're back on the record. 14 Α Yes. 15 Okay. Of 2021. Okay. 15 BY MR. DUBE: Q 16 A Yes. 17 Okay. So during -- so during those six

18 months, did you impose any civil service discipline
19 upon Officer Saldivar?
19 A No.

20 A I didn't because the investigation wasn't

21 complete.22 Q I'll strike everything after did not. So

25 decision. And so --

23 I'm going to ask you the question again. Between

24 January 12th, 2021 and July 11th, 2021, did you

25 impose any civil service discipline on Officer

VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 3:26

11 and we're off the record.

12 (off the record.)

13 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is now 3:28

14 and we're back on the record.

15 BY MR. DUBE:

16 Q Do you have any regrets with respect to

17 any of the decisions you made with respect to

18 Officer Saldivar?

19 A No.

20 Q What is your ultimate opinion of Officer

21 Saldivar as a police officer?

22 A I -- I don't think he should be a police

23 officer.

24 Q Why not?

25 A His judgment on the Aviles shooting.

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19 adjustments across the board for the city. 20 Q My question was do you know if he received 21 a raise after the Aviles shooting. 22 A I -- I don't know the answer to that. 23 Q I'm trying to find it, but I'm recalling 24 that during your deposition in the Schenk case, you 25 testified that it was ultimately within your

an email or -- or a website where I -- I just need to get your information. 21 THE DEPONENT: Norman, I'll give it to 22 him. 23 MR. GILES: Thank you. 24 COURT REPORTER: That'll work. Thank you 25 so much for that. And I've got together with the

	Chief Joshua Bri	iegg I	<u>(er January 5, 2024 NDT Assign # 71056 Page 59</u>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	witness. He's going to help me with the spellings of the officers names that were mentioned that I don't have, so we are good to go. Oh, read and sign?  MR. GILES: Yes, please.  COURT REPORTER: Okay. And send it to?  MR. GILES: Me.  COURT REPORTER: Oh, to you. All right.  We will get this done.  MR. GILES: All right. Thank you very much for your help.  VIDEO TECHNICIAN: All right. Okay. All right. This concludes the video deposition of Joshua Bruegger. The time is now three 3:35 and we're off the record.  (Deponent excused.)  (Whereupon, at 3:35 p.m., the taking of the foregoing deposition was concluded.)	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	CERTIFICATE  I, Mark Hagood, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.  I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any part to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.  IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of January, 2024.
24		24	
25		25	
	231		233
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	I the undersigned, Clark Bolen, am a videographer on behalf of NAEGELI Deposition & Trial. I do hereby certify that I have accurately made the video recording of the deposition of Chief Joshua Bruegger, in the above captioned matter on the 5th day of January 2024, in the location of 937 Broadway Street, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.  No alterations, additions or deletions were made thereto.  I further certify that I am not related to any of these parties in the matter and I have no financial interest in the outcome of this matter.  Clark Bolen Videographer	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Date: January 23, 2024 Assignment #: 71056 Attorney: Norman R. Giles, Esquire Deponent: Chief Joshua Bruegger Case: Aviles vs. Saldivar  ATTORNEY - TRANSCRIPT ENCLOSED: Signature of your client is required. Please have your client make any corrections necessary. Sign the Correction Sheet where indicated. Forward a COPY of the executed Correction Sheet directly to the attorney(s) listed below. (The Address(es) can be found on the Appearance page of the deposition.) Also, send a COPY of the executed Correction Sheet to our corporation.  CC: Naegeli Deposition & Trial Dimitri Dube, Esquire
23 24 25		22 23 24 25	

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3	CORRECTION SHEET  Deposition of: Chief Joshua Bruegger Date: 01/05/24  Regarding: Aviles vs. Saldivar  Reporter: Hagood	
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Please make all corrections, changes or clarifications to your testimony on this sheet, showing page and line number. If there are no changes, write "none" across the page. Sign this sheet on the line provided.  Page Line Reason for Change	
<ul><li>22</li><li>23</li><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	Signature Chief Joshua Bruegger	
3	DECLARATION  Deposition of: Chief Joshua Bruegger Date: 01/05/24  Regarding: Aviles vs. Saldivar  Reporter: Hagood	
6 7	I declare under penalty of perjury the following to be true:	
11 12 13	I have read my deposition and the same is true and accurate save and except for any corrections as made by me on the Correction Page herein.	
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Signed at,, on the, 2024.	
21 22 23 24 25	Signature Chief Joshua Bruegger	

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